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Johnston, former TT high commissioner, passes away. PAGE 2
Labor relocating to save $200,000 in annual rental. PAGE 5

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to allow tsunami victims in Japan to temporarily relocate to the CNMI?

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INSIDE

Missing
Eleven days after the tsunami slammed into Japan, some 13,800 people are still missing.

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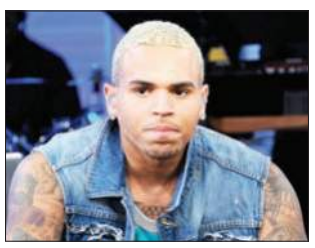
Terrorized City
Moammar Gadhafi's snipers and tanks are terrorizing civilians in the city of Misrata.

WORLD...Page 16



Fresh Trouble
Chris Brown trashes his dressing room after being asked about his attack on Rihanna.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

UNDER KILILI'S PROPOSED BILL

Status for IRs, permanent residents

» Rough time in Congress for Senate's proposal for foreign workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday he will soon introduce a bill that will prevent the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from deporting three specific groups of individuals in the CNMI come Nov. 28, 2011, when the so-called umbrella permits expire.

Sablan

These are the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and 91 or 92 individuals born here between 1974 and 1978 but were not granted U.S. citizenship.

His proposed status for these individuals will allow them to remain in the CNMI, but such status will not allow them to freely travel and work in the U.S. mainland, and other territories.

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'Work doesn't stop at economic summit'

» Sablan: Don't blame feds for CNMI problems
» Summit spurs interest in aquaculture, alternative industries

People from different sectors take part in a discussion on agriculture as one of five proposed alternative industries during the breakout sessions at the second day of the 2011 Economic Restoration Summit at Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While there's some frustration with the spate of economic summits that seem to go nowhere, there's also growing interest in proposed alternative industries such as aquaculture—particularly shrimp and tilapia farming—at least among those who took part in the 2011 Economic

See SUMMIT on Page 4

No more Covenant Day debate program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After eight years of hosting the annual Covenant Day debate, the NMI Council for the Humanities has decided to scrap the program altogether due to lack of funding and other factors.

Executive director Scott Russell confirmed yesterday that the 2010 edition was the final run of the Cov-

See COVENANT on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
CNMI marks 35th year of relationship with US today.
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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A price display at the Mobil service station in Garapan shows the latest pump prices after a 10-cent a gallon increase yesterday.

NEW MOBIL PRICES

Regular:	$4.459 a gallon
Premium:	$4.779 a gallon
Diesel:	$4.769 a gallon

Gas prices up by another 10 cents a gallon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Barely three weeks since its last 10-cent price increase, Mobil Oil Marianas raised its pump prices on Saipan by another 10 cents a gallon yesterday morning, as the price of crude oil continues to hover above $100 a barrel.

This means that for this month alone, Saipan motorists are paying

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Local

Edward Johnston, former TT high commissioner, passes away

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Edward E. Johnston, former High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, passed away on Feb. 18. He was 93.

Johnston was appointed by President Richard Nixon to serve TTPI's highest position from May 1, 1969 to July 1, 1976.

"He held a very critical position for supervising the office of the headquarters for the trust territory," constitutionalist and longtime educator Sam McPhetres told *Saipan Tribune*.

McPhetres, who started working in the Trust Territory in 1973, served during Johnston's term as part of the self-government program.

Johnston

"It's a program set up by the United Nations and the U.S. government to develop a program to educate the Micronesian population as to their options after the trusteeship. We were going around developing curriculum and programs to tell people what independence and free association meant until decisions were made by the voters themselves," he explained.

McPhetres described Johnston as a "good" administrator. "He was very even-handed… never had any accusation of him misusing his office."

He said Johnston made very good friends with several local people during his tenure.

According to McPhetres, Johnston came at a time when the movement toward the islands' self-determination was in action and there was a big push from the federal government to develop the Pacific Islands, including the CNMI.

"He was in charge of all the trust territory programs, which meant capital improvement programs, education, health, everything. He's just like a president of a country," he added.

Johnston also ensured that Micronesians were given the opportunity to exercise their skills to run their own government by replacing the Americans who were part of then Congress of Micronesia "as much as possible, whenever possible."

When asked about Johnston's main contribution to the CNMI, McPhetres said the High Commissioner made it possible to get rid of all the slot machines in every hotel on island.

"All hotels had slot machines and there was a growing revolt in the business community because of bad mortgages, payments not being made, bank loans not being met," he recounted.

McPhetres said Johnston set up a research program to study the effects of the slot machines "and it came out recommending that they be closed."

"He issued an executive order. All the slot machines were removed by midnight of January 1st, 1975, I think. And it was done," he said.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, the Fitial administration expressed sadness to learn of the passing of "a great friend of the Commonwealth."

"Lt. Gov. Inos and I had the privilege of working closely with Commissioner Johnston during his tenure as High Commissioner of the TTPI. He was truly an admirable leader and a pioneer of his time. He will certainly be missed by many," said Fitial.

Johnston was also appointed by President Dwight Eisenhower to serve as Secretary for the Territory of Hawaii during its transition to statehood.

After serving as High Commissioner of the TTPI, Johnston served as executive director of Pacific Area Travel Association in San Francisco and as director of Long's Drug Stores.

He is survived by his wife Clare, daughters Karen Johnston and Janice Primiano, grandsons, nieces, and nephews.

Johnston was interred at The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

PSS bars students with head lice, nits

It is now a Public School System policy that students and adults who are found infected with head lice and nits will be barred from entering campuses as a way to prevent the spread of the disease.

The new policy prohibits students and employees from kindergarten to high school from attending classes until they are treated.

Head lice is a common condition among children ages 3-10 and as many as six to 12 million people worldwide get head lice each year. Outbreaks of head lice occur often in schools and group settings. As a complication, scratching can lead to skin sores and skin infections.

"To ensure that Public School System children are provided with a healthy and clean environment, PSS classrooms shall be kept lice-free. Support and education shall be given to all families to help prevent spreading of lice," the new rule states.

Clearance for admission into classrooms must be issued by the school administrator after the student's hair is checked by a designated personnel or administrator. Parents and guardians are asked to address the problem immediately.

"Excessive or continuous referrals for head lice may result in further action as a safeguard and protection for the child's health and welfare," according to the board.

Trained staff will be checking all students at enrollment to ensure that they begin classes lice-free. They will then be checked monthly or as need arises.

When any students attending PSS is found with head lice, students in close proximity to the affected student must be checked for lice to minimize spreading. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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CNMI marks 35th year of political relationship with US today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Today marks the 35th year when President Gerald Ford signed a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

Covenant Day, as it is known, is an observed CNMI holiday.

For government employees, however, it is an unpaid holiday because of austerity measures embedded in the fiscal year 2011 budget law.

The administration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos urged everyone in the CNMI yesterday "to take a few moments today to reflect on our Covenant and to renew our commitment to understand, explain, and defend our status agreement with the United States."

During this year's Covenant Day holiday, the Fitial administration said it re-affirms its commitment "to the promise of the Covenant: meaningful local self-government and a higher standard of living through economic growth and development."

President Ford signed on March 24, 1976, the "Covenant" that the U.S. Congress approved.

A year later, the CNMI government adopted its own Constitution, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978.

The "Covenant" was fully implemented on Nov. 3, 1986, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 5564, which conferred U.S. citizenship on legally qualified CNMI residents.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the Northern Marianas "has one of the best relationships with the United States," a thought he's been told by a former mentor.

"We arrived at this relationship through an act of self determination, political self-determination. …We have our own Constitution; I can't say that for other territories," he said when asked for comment.

He said the fundamental parts of the Covenant should remain, but said there are some issues that can be changed.

These include the issue of submerged lands, which he is trying to address in a bill he re-introduced. His bill conveys to the Northern Marianas the submerged lands out to three miles from the shoreline of each of the islands. It gives the people of the CNMI the power to protect and benefit from these lands and the natural resources in the waters above them.

The Fitial administration said the Commonwealth enjoys a "unique" political status under the American flag.

"The Northern Marianas were not conquered, annexed, or purchased by the United States. The Covenant is the result of more than 20 years of political campaigning by our ancestors seeking a political relationship with the United States. It is the result of more than two years of serious negotiations between the Marianas Political Status Commission and a United States delegation," it said.

The administration added that the Covenant "is the result of careful scrutiny by the United States Congress, followed by its approval and submission to President Ford. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our political leaders of the 1960s and 1970s for their efforts in achieving our current political status."

Riya Nathrani, 17, said Covenant Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the agreement that established the U.S. and NMI relationship.

"It's an important date for the CNMI. The Covenant gave lots of opportunities to the islands," said the Marianas High School junior.

Another MHS student said he is not sure about the significance of Covenant Day other than it is "something political, something about the relationship of the U.S. and the CNMI." Another student said she only knows that Covenant Day is a holiday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial founded in 2001 a political party he named after the "Covenant."

But on Jan. 5, 2011, Fitial left the Covenant Party and went back to the Republican Party, saying that his goal was to merge the Covenant and Republican parties, which the GOP did not approve.

Ex-cop charged with excessive force, false arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former police officer surrendered to federal authorities on Tuesday after the U.S. government filed charges against him for allegedly using excessive force in making a false arrest of two men last year when he was still a police officer.

Frankie S. Pangelinan was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for his initial court appearance.

Attorney Robert T. Torres represented Pangelinan at the hearing. Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto appeared for the U.S. government.

Torres and Benedetto refused to comment about the case after the hearing.

The indictment, which was filed on Friday, charged Pangelinan with deprivation of rights under color of law (excessive force), deprivation of rights under color of law (false arrest), and deprivation of rights under color of law.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja set the jury trial for May 23, 2011.

According to the indictment, on July 26, 2010, Pangelinan sprayed pepper spray into the eyes of Felipe "Phil" Kalen and Alafanso Anso Kintin, resulting in bodily injury.

Pangelinan allegedly arrested Kalen without probable cause, depriving Kalen of his Fourth Amendment right to be free of unreasonable seizure, "which includes the right to be free from arrest except upon probable cause."

Saipan Tribune learned that Pangelinan left the Department of Public Safety in November 2010. It was not clear if he was terminated or he resigned.

Pangelinan was named 2004 Government Employee of the Year. At the time, he was assigned to the governor's protective service.

Prior to that assignment, Pangelinan was a training and professional development instructor at DPS. His duties included preparing and training recruits in the department's Police Academy.

Reksid pleads not guilty; OK'd to travel for medical referral

Franz B. Reksid pleaded not guilty yesterday to wire fraud and bribery charges.

At the arraignment, attorney Mark Hanson, counsel for the 70-year-old Reksid, said the defendant waived reading of the superseding indictment and pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The superseding indictment charged Reksid with seven counts of wire fraud and one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Hanson asked the court to let his client remain free and to allow Reksid to leave for Hawaii for medical referral.

The lawyer said Reksid has an appointment with a doctor in Hawaii on March 30, 2011.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley did not object to Reksid's requests.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja allowed Reksid to go to Hawaii and set the jury trial for July 11.

The indictment alleged that from January 2009 to August 2009, Reksid, a Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary, borrowed over $300,000 from friends, associates, and relatives and wired part of the money to Ivory Coast and Nigeria. He also allegedly solicited $3,000 from the owner of a business that was seeking to obtain a contract with DPL. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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13th Annual Taste of the Marianas returns in May

The monthlong 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden returns to Saipan for back-to-back weekends of food, fun, and festivities.

Hundreds of visitors and residents are expected to gather for the annual event, which kicks off on May 7, 2011, and will continue every Saturday evening throughout the month at American Memorial Park on Saipan.

Local hotels and restaurants will offer fine fare at reasonable fare, with most dinner items at $6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment was offered on the main stage while secondary entertainment and competitions will take place at the secondary stage.

Prizes and prestige will be on the line throughout the month during the Chefs Competition (May 28), pitting hotel junior chefs in a cook-off highlight a select cut of Certified Angus Beef and local ingredients. Other competitions will include the Hotdog Eating Competition (May 7) and Bartenders' Cocktail Competition (May 21).

Local arts and crafts will also be on sale. Celebrated in conjunction with May Tourism Month, the festival will also give attendees the opportunity to learn about the latest NMI tourism trends through the My Marianas slideshow presentation.

The MVA is also encouraging residents to prepare for other Tourism Month must-do, demonstrating their island pride and culture by wearing island attire or traditional wear during *Hafa Adai-Tirow* Spirit Islandwear Day each Friday. Facebook fans of "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands" who post pictures in May have a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens. One randomly selected fan with an islandwear photo will receive $10 in tokens each week.

For more information about Tourism Month activities, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 1.670.664.3200/1 or e-mail Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

GAS PRICES

From Page 1

20 cents more for every gallon they pump into their vehicle compared to last month.

"It's really hurting us, every time gas prices increase," said Kagman resident Frank Arurang, while filling up his pickup truck at the Mobil-Garapan service station yesterday.

He said he spends some $60 a week for gas, which he said is a costly but necessary expense to get him from Point A to Point B.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Mobil service stations is now $4.459 a gallon, up from $4.359 a gallon.

Super unleaded gasoline now costs $4.779 a gallon, from $4.679 a gallon.

Diesel now costs $4.769 a gallon. Unlike regular and super unleaded gasoline, the price of diesel went up Monday.

Shell Marianas had yet to increase its prices as of yesterday afternoon; the two oil giants usually mirror each other's price changes.

Jun Alciso, a 48-year-old resident of Gualo Rai, said residents cannot do anything about gas price increases.

"We still have to spend the same amount on gas but get less gas. We just have to cut on other expenses. For example, I will cut down on eating at restaurants and cook food at home instead," he said.

He said he spends some $100 a week in gas for his pickup truck, which he uses for work and for personal purposes.

A government employee on Capital Hill said this latest price increase will be an added burden to households.

"It's hard. It's not just food prices going up but gas prices too, when we already have unstable government paydays," said the mother of three from Garapan.

The employee, who has been in government for six years, said because of the economic difficulties, she couldn't send her children to private schools.

"And now summer is coming up. My kids will stay at home and that means we'll be using power the whole day at home. Then school will open, and we have to take care of school supplies. And on top of everything, there's always a gas price increase," said the employee, who asked that her name be withheld.

She said she spends $40 for gas a week. "And that's not even full tank," she added.

Mobil Oil Marianas did not respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment as of press time. Media inquiries were referred to the office of Gennaro Cioffi, president and country manager at Mobil Oil Guam/Mobil Oil Micronesia.

Yesterday's price increase was the fourth for 2011, and the 10th since 2010.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least $1.80 a gallon in gasoline prices from what they used to pay.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases. Many Saipan motorists only learn of such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

STATUS

From Page 1

They would need to obtain a B1 or B2 visa, for example, to be able to visit the U.S. mainland or other U.S. territories. However, they won't need an advance parole or parole to leave the CNMI and return.

Sablan said these individuals do not have a status provided for in U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

He said deportation of these individuals will "break up" families in the CNMI.

"It's the right thing to do to fix it. It has nothing to do with politics," Sablan said in an interview at the Economic Restoration Summit at Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

He said many of these individuals like IRs already qualify for a change of status to "green card" but do not meet the income threshold.

His bill also proposes to remove the income threshold for those individuals who are eligible to change their status.

Sablan's bill is entirely separate from the CNMI Senate's recommendation to the U.S. Congress to grant foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States.

Sablan's bill is focused on three groups of individuals, while the CNMI Senate's recommendation addresses the fate of long-term foreign workers whose immigration status will be addressed in a yet-to-be-issued transitional worker regulations.

There is no telling whether DHS will be able to beat its self-imposed deadline of March to release the CNMI-only worker, or CW, regulations, Sablan said.

"The latest word is 'soon,'" he added.

While the CNMI Senate recommends FAS-like status for long-term foreign workers, most foreign worker groups in the CNMI have been asking for "green card" or a pathway to U.S. citizenship or outright citizenship.

Sablan reiterated yesterday that Congress will not grant automatic "green card" or U.S. citizenship.

"Again I would say this. I've said this all along and I will say it again: Congress will not allow anyone in the Northern Mariana Islands to automatically get a green card or get a U.S. citizenship, no one. That's something that I don't control. That's something that Congress will not give," he added.

He reiterated the U.S. Congress' concern with the CNMI Senate's recommended FAS-like status.

First, the FAS status was specifically developed for citizens of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

Secondly, Congress continues to be concerned about the volume of FAS citizens now residing in the U.S. and its territories.

Sablan added that any immigration issue in Congress is a difficult one at this time.

But he said he is not opposing the Senate's recommendation.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and Senate legal counsel Matthew Meyer went to Washington, D.C. last week to personally hand over to Congress the CNMI Senate recommendation on the status of foreign workers.

Sablan is now the ranking member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Areas, which has jurisdiction over U.S. insular areas such as the CNMI and Guam.

COVENANT

From Page 1

enant Day debate under the council's auspices.

The Covenant Day debate program was established in 2003 and was sponsored annually by the council in conjunction with the National Forensic League of the Western Pacific. It aimed to promote research and debating skills and encourage students to examine Covenant-related issues that affect life in the Commonwealth.

Although the program has had some success during its eight-year run, Russell said it did not reach the number of people they wanted because it involves only a few students.

Only the top two winners in the national forensic league's Lincoln Debate program in junior and high school divisions compete in the contest.

Last year, the competition's titles were bestowed on Amber Roberts of Saipan International School and Marianas Baptist Academy's Hye Young Oh.

According to Russell, the council is in the process of creating a new program that would replace the debate program but would be linked to the celebration of Covenant Day in the CNMI.

He said it is the council's desire to offer an enjoyable program that would be available to as many people in the community.

"Covenant Day debate is always been a little bit difficult in that regard, that's one of the reasons. I think the debate program went well in eight years, but there comes a time when you need to start doing new things," he said, adding that the council reviews each program's effectiveness from time to time.

In addition, Russell said the council has yet to get the full grant for this fiscal year, making it more cautious in its program offerings.

The NMI Council for the Humanities is a non-profit, grant-making corporation established in the Commonwealth in 1991. It is affiliated with and receives annual grant support from the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities of roughly $270,000 yearly. It also received support from private grants and donations.

Russell said they are currently operating under continuing resolution as Congress has yet to pass a budget for this fiscal year.

"We had some money left over from last year and we received some funding under the continuing resolution. Right now, we're a little bit cautious because we don't know what will actually happen to the [federal budget]," said Russell.

Without a budget this fiscal year, Russell said this would reduce the council's capabilities because it will be forced to rely on money from donations and fundraisers to keep its programs running.

SUMMIT

From Page 1

Restoration Summit that wrapped up yesterday.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar separately said the full success of the summit will only be measured by the implementation of strategies that will be developed out of the two-day event.

Over 150 individuals participated in the summit.

"We have to follow up with implementation. We have to stop 'admiring the problem.' We have to move beyond talk. We have to take action. We have to get to work," Sablan said in his remarks at the second day of the summit held at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Igisomar, in an interview, said he will do his best to ensure that the work doesn't stop at the summit.

This summit was a follow up to a 2009 summit that identified alternative industries for the CNMI. Last year, the U.S. Department of the Interior held a forum on economic and labor development. Early this year, the House of Representatives and the Office of the Attorney General separately held economic/business summits.

Sablan said there's no one cause to the many problems and challenges that the CNMI faces, so there is also no single solution.

Perry Conner, a retired educator, said he's looking into developing business ideas or business ventures, and he is particularly interested in aquaculture.

Conner was one of those who participated in the summit's breakout sessions yesterday. He was at the aquaculture group.

"We need to bring life back in our community. Aquaculture makes good use of the land and water available here. It will provide jobs. The challenge is what we do after the summit. We need to put to good use the information we get from this summit," he said.

Conner lauded the summit organizers for inviting Dr. Addison Lee Lawrence, a professor and regents fellow at Texas A&M University, to share ideas on aquaculture.

Nelida B. Atalig, a retired government employee, said she's also interested in aquaculture, particularly shrimp and tilapia farming.

"This summit is important because it helps us learn more about the industry. Shrimp and tilapia can be sold locally and can be exported to Guam and other places," she said.

But Atalig shared what she thinks are among the challenges in putting up a tilapia or shrimp farm, including a minimum capital of $20,000 and the numerous permits she has to secure to operate an aquaculture farm.

"Based on the discussions in the breakout session, I would need to get a permit from DLNR, CRM, Zoning, DEQ, DPW, and Commerce. And the financing—I think the government should subsidize portions of it, or make available loans to start aquaculture," she said.

'Diversification, other issues'

Sablan echoed former Honolulu mayor Francis "Mufi" Hannemann's statement on the need to focus on tourism as the CNMI's core competency, and on the need to diversify "within" the tourism industry such as eco-tourism or educational tourism.

He said agriculture, aquaculture, and even small-scale assembly and manufacturing must be a part of the CNMI's long-term economic growth.

In his remarks Sablan said, "It's suddenly fashionable here in the Commonwealth to blame our problems on the federal government."

"The U.S. has 'screwed' us, one of the legislators says. They gave us lots of money, yes, but forced us to spend it for things we didn't want—like alternative energy, and paved roads, and improved water lines, and schools," he said.

Sablan said this is "odd," as he said modern infrastructure is what makes an economy run and what tourists and investors "and most of all, residents, like to see."

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), the lawmaker who said the federal government "screwed" the CNMI, declined to respond to Sablan's statement—"at this time."

Torres was among the lawmakers at the summit on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sablan said he's not defending the federal government for it also has decisions that he doesn't agree with at all.

He spoke of the millions of federal dollars coming CNMI's way, and their positive impact on the islands. These include the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding which pumped $41 million into the local economy by the end of 2010, and as of Jan. 1, 2011, there's still $77 million of ARRA money awarded and waiting to be spent.

Labor relocating to save $200,000 in annual rental

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor will relocate all its offices from the Afetnas Building in San Antonio to CNMI housing buildings on Capital Hill—a move that will save the government over $200,000 in annual rental for office spaces.

Labor staff members have been moving their things and renovating House No. 1334 on Ascension Drive since last week. The building used to be the residence of former U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson.

House No. 1334, located behind the U.S. Passport Office, will be the new offices of the Guest Worker Section, Job Availability Section, and Job Placement Section.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* that they are doing the relocation slowly and in phases.

San Nicolas estimates that it would take them a couple of months to complete the relocation of all Labor offices to Capital Hill as the buildings need renovation.

Bobbie Sablan, Labor's administrative services manager, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the processing of papers at the Guest Worker Section, Job Availability Section, and Job Placement Section will be done at their new offices on Capital Hill starting April 4, 2011.

Sablan said the telephone number at their new office is 664-3190.

She said they did only minor renovations at Munson's former residence as the building was still in good condition.

Sablan said the relocation is being done in phases due to funding availability. Some of the houses they will be moving to need more renovation work.

"We did demolitions," she said, pointing at adjacent buildings that have been unoccupied for many years.

Labor will need five buildings for all its offices.

Sablan said the next offices scheduled for relocation are the Labor Identification Data System and Labor Enforcement Section, then the Administrative Hearing Office.

The last to move, she said, will be the Administrative Services and the Labor secretary's office.

Sablan said their target is to relocate all Labor offices by Sept. 30, 2011.

She said the government has been paying roughly $22,000 a month to rent space for Labor's offices.

Since the government has no money and there are these vacant buildings, Sablan said the relocation would be another savings for the government in the long run.

Inos gets 1-year probation sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Department of Public Works official Joseph Inos Jr., who became embroiled in an alleged sexual contact with a female minor but was convicted only of disturbing the peace, was sentenced yesterday to a year of probation.

The 33-year-old Inos appeared calm during the sentencing. He refused to give a statement when Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo gave him a chance to speak before handing down the sentence.

"Once again, Mr. Inos you did the wrong thing!" Govendo told Inos after the sentencing.

A few of Inos' relatives and family members, including former Coastal Resources Management Office director Felipe Atalig, were present in the courtroom.

Govendo said he believes that losing a good government job is already a serious punishment and sufficient payment for a debt to society. Inos was terminated from DPW after the incident.

The judge had sentenced Inos to six months in prison, all suspended. He was also required to pay a $500 fine and to perform 20 hours of community service. He was also directed to apologize to the girl and the girl's parents in writing.

Govendo stressed that Inos was in no way a victim in this matter.

"The victim is the young lady," he pointed out.

If there was a statute against freaking out a teenager, Govendo said he would have find Inos guilty of it.

"His action was inappropriate," Govendo said.

He said that society has changed and there is a slow but sure awakening against domestic violence and sexual harassment. There are, however, still dinosaurs out there committing domestic violence and sexual harassment in job sites, he added.

"Those days are over," Govendo said.

Assistant attorney General Shelli Neal had recommended a sentence of two years probation, a $500 fine, and 500 hours of community service. Neal had also recommended that Inos make a $500 donation to Ayuda Network and write a letter of apology each to the victim, her parents, DPW, Workforce Investment Agency, and victim's co-summer trainee.

Assistant public defender Adam Miles argued that Inos has suffered enough, has been ridiculed, and has lost his job as a result of this case.

During a bench trial on March 8, 2011, Govendo acquitted Inos of charges relating to an alleged sexual contact with a female minor.

The 33-year-old Inos was not found guilty of assault and battery, false arrest, and misconduct in public office. He, was however, found guilty of disturbing the peace.

The Office of the Attorney General had alleged that on Aug. 16, 2010, Inos had sexual contact with the then 17-year-old WIA trainee and that he detained her against her will. At the time, Inos was DPW's Technical Services Division director.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Special meeting Friday, March 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS
- A. FY 2012 Budget
- B. New Asset Allocation Transition Update

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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'NMI pension fund only has 8 years under status quo'

» 'Allowing retirees to double dip forever will further shorten Fund's lifespan'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund said the Commonwealth's pension program would last only another eight years if the practice of allowing retirees to double dip for two years is continued, according to its administrator, Richard Villagomez.

It's not a stretch then, Villagomez said, that the Fund's lifespan will be further shortened if a bill allowing retirees to double dip in perpetuity becomes law.

Senate Legislative Initiative 17-03 proposes to amend the Constitution to allow qualified retirees to be re-employed as classroom teachers, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals without loss of retirement benefits—regardless of the individual's job before retirement.

This measure also eliminates the time limitation on such re-employment and expands the definition of medical professionals exempted from the proposed double dipping law.

Double dipping happens when a retiree returns to government service and draws both a salary and a pension. The current law allows double dipping but only for two years.

Villagomez said the Fund strongly opposes the passage of the initiative because it will put a greater strain on the fiscal integrity of an already struggling pension system.

"The life of the Fund, if the status quo is maintained, is a very short six to eight years as illustrated to certain members of each House of the 17th Legislature in November 2010. The main concern with this initiative is that the general fund's payment of salary will continue to increase when the focus should be shifted to increasing payment to the Fund for decades of deficient employer contributions," said Villagomez, in his comment on the bill.

The Fund's portfolio is in excess of $300 million as of February this year. This could have been higher if not for the large amounts the Fund has been withdrawing in the last several years due to delinquent employer contributions from the central government.

"It is ill advised to encourage retirees to return to government employment, most especially when there have been discussions of reductions in force," said Villagomez.

Instead, Villagomez said, the Legislature must shift its focus to increasing payments to the Fund in order to ensure that it is able to fulfill its obligation to its members.

He said the initiative also increases benefits without an independent funding source and should be evaluated by an actuary to ascertain by how much it will impact the Fund and whether there is an independent funding source for the "added" benefit.

"Without the much needed infusion of monies into the Retirement Fund along with the legislative amendments that give added benefits without the required funding source, the Fund's lifespan will quickly be reduced," added Villagomez.

Resolution seeks to honor 12th grader

A commemorative resolution has been pre-filed honoring Joycelynn Violy Lorenza Yorong Atalig for her exemplary accomplishments and her contributions to the community of Rota.

Commemorative Resolution 17-17, authored by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), commends Atalig who is the student representative to the Board of Education.

"She is definitely a good role model not just for students on Rota but for the rest of the Commonwealth," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Born on Saipan but raised on Rota, Atalig has joined various school activities and competitions such as the National Junior Forensic League, the Academic Challenge Bowl, and the Sengabao Poetry Competition during her years at Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior High School.

Atalig had also been actively involved in several student organizations like the Student Body Council, Teen Talk Club, and the Math Count Club.

A 12th grader at Rota High School, Atalig maintains her commitment to school activities such as the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program, Drama Class, Upward Bound Program, Student Body Council, the Close-Up Club, Junior Statesmen of America, and the Youth Advisory Panel.

In the summer of 2010, Atalig attended the Junior Statesmen of America Program at Stanford University, where she received an A when she took the Advance Placement U.S. Government class and won a powerhouse debate with the topic "Whether the drinking age should be lowered to 18."

Atalig recently competed in the Mock Trial Competition of 2010 where she won the "Most Effective Prosecution Attorney."

Atalig plans to take up political science at the University of Guam and obtain a master's degree in political science minor in education.

Santos disclosed that she will introduce the resolution once the Legislature convenes on Friday. ***(Clarissa David)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy sweet 16th birthday greetings to Janece Mae C. Salas! We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Julia, and John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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ADDENDUM NO. 01
03-21-11
RFP11-SOF-067
OPERATION and REVITALIZATION of La FIESTA MALL

The previously advertised notice, Request For Proposal ("RFP") for the **"Operation & Revitalization of La Fiesta Mall"** has been amended. The specific amendment is to modify include eleven (11) sheets of plans, extend when bids are due and when bids will open. Amendment shall read:

Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **RFP-SOF-067** containing (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement & Supply Office; Lower Base Saipan, MP 96950 **no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 29, 2011.** Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will no be accepted. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing and must be received by **4:30 p.m. ChST April 14, 2011.**

Proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP11-SOF-067". For proposers within the CNMI one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST April 29, 2011.** Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement 7 Supply no later than 1**0:00 a.m. ChST April 29, 2011** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or email to **procurement@pticom.com**. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official postal service of a foreign country no later than, **April 29, 2011 ChST** AND must be received no later than **May 11, 2011**. Note that the failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Secretary of Finance, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Ms. Larrisa Larson, Acting Secretary of Finance at (670)664-1100 or by fax at (670)664-1115. Questions are due no later than close of business day April 14, 2011.

/s/ LARRISA LARSON
Acting Secretary of Finance

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ ELOY S. INOS
Lieutenant Governor

25-year land use sought for proposed dog pound in Lower Base

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores has asked the Department of Public Lands for his office to be allowed to continue using a lot in Lower Base where the proposed dog pound facility will be located.

"Our current permit for the facility is due to expire on April 5," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Flores, he requested for an extension of the permit in a letter addressed to Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta on March 10.

Flores noted that the permit extension should be set at a minimum of 25 years to implement and monitor the island's animal control program.

Flores, in his letter, enumerated the progress that his office has made in the long-overdue facility for dogs and other stray animals on island.

The mayor said his office is coordinating with the Department of Public Works to develop and finalize the architectural and engineering designs and plans for the facility.

"Once the final architectural and engineering plans are completed to our specifications, we will submit them to your office as required," Flores wrote to Babauta.

According to Flores, students of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute have been instrumental to the project as they helped clear the Lower Base facility.

Flores said he also hired a full time program staff, Ray Lizama, who will coordinate the implementation of this "very important and urgent project."

He said the dog tagging phase of the animal control program is tentatively scheduled to begin in May.

"The dog tagging phase is very important so we will know which dogs or stray animals we can go after," said Flores.

Flores added that the public awareness campaign on the tagging requirements will be in full swing by April.

"As you can see, the momentum has started and we would like to be assured of your continued assistance, which will positively impact this much delayed service to the community," Flores concluded.

The mayor disclosed that he is set to meet with Babauta within the week to discuss his request.

NMC adopts new policies governing its employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has approved significant changes to the college's human resources policies for all employees, including a protocol that will guide NMC employees when dealing with the media.

The changes, according to the board, are part of the college's overall effort to revise and update its policies to make them clearer, timelier, and more effective.

One of the new policies requires employees to participate in program review activities. This shall include participating in the development and monitoring of program mission and outcomes, collecting and interpreting program appropriate data and evidence, evaluating program effectiveness, developing action plans for improvement, and participating in activities led by the Planning, Program Review Outcomes and Assessment Committee. Participation in the program review process shall be considered in each employee's annual evaluation."

According to NMC, this policy was already being implemented through presidential directive, but is now formalized as board policy.

In addition, the regents also adopted a new media relations protocol, which guides how employees interact with the external media. The new protocol states that the president of NMC is the official spokesperson of the college. In his or her absence, individuals, on a case-by-case basis, may be specifically authorized by the president to speak on behalf of the college. The new policy also states that members of the college faculty are encouraged to speak with the media and to educate the general public within areas of their academic expertise.

Other updates include revisions to policies on personnel files, vacancy announcements, recruitment and hiring practices, orientation program, annual leave, and drugs and alcohol. Some other changes include the deletion of outdated or overlapping policies to maintain the consistency of the application of the human resources policies.

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera said the college management is reviewing more policies at present.

"While the recently-approved policies represent a significant portion of all the ones we are seeking to revise and update, we have others that are currently in draft stages that need to be reviewed further. These will be brought to the board for its consideration soon," said Cabrera.

Prior to the board's review and approval of the policies, the college's constituents, staff, and faculty reviewed the policies. The policies were also reviewed through the institution's governance bodies, including the college council.

The NMC interim president, the NMC human resource office, and the college's legal counsel also reviewed the policies to address institutional concerns.

"Seeking broad input and participation in the revision of these policies was important. We wanted to be sure that everyone from the campus community had an opportunity to review and suggest changes to the policies before they were transmitted to the Board of Regents," added Cabrera.

Motorola Xoom at stake for the highest donors to iConnect's Japan relief drive

A week after launching the "Today, We Are All Japanese" Japan Relief Drive, iConnect continues to receive text-in pledges and donations from generous and kind-hearted subscribers.

As an added bonus and in sincere appreciation, Motorola Mobility (Motorola's newly spun-off company for its mobile devices) has partnered with iConnect to give away Motorola Xoom tablets to the top three donors to this fund drive. iConnect and Buddy subscribers have until March 31 to contribute to iConnect's Japan Relief Drive.

The Motorola Xoom Tablet, which runs on Android 3.0, is the winner of the 2011 CES Best Tablet/Best in Show award. It is considered as one the most advanced Android devices available in the market today.

"Motorola Mobility was so impressed and touched by Guam and the CNMI's efforts to help the victims of the Japan disasters that they decided to partner with us in this fundraising campaign. We are thankful to Motorola Mobility for this kind gesture of support which we hope will encourage more donations to iConnect's Japan Relief Drive," said Matt Giger, iConnect's chief business development officer.

The "Today, We are all Japanese" campaign is open to all iConnect and Buddy post and prepaid subscribers. iConnect and Buddy subscribers can donate $5 by texting the word JAPAN and their name to 5276 (JAPN) on their iConnect and Buddy phones. Each donation will automatically be billed to iConnect or Buddy postpaid accounts or deducted from prepaid accounts. iConnect will donate all proceeds of this fund drive directly to the Japan Red Cross.

Contact 888-8888 on Guam and the CNMI to know more about how contributions can be made to iConnect's "Today, We are all Japanese" campaign. ***(iConnect)***

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Woman accuses ex-employer of defamation

A woman is suing her former employer for alleged wrongful termination and spreading false statements that she stole money from the company.

Aside from a defamation claim, Antonina Senchenko is also suing Sasha Co. Ltd. and its president and chief executive officer, Alexander Vekhov, for alleged violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, breach of contract, and wrongful discharge.

Senchenko, through counsels Michael Dotts and Colin M. Thompson, is demanding unspecified payment for unpaid wages, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

According to the complaint filed Tuesday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Senchenko was employed by the defendants as a translator under yearly contracts from November 2007 to October 2010. During that time, Senchenko claims that she worked more than 40 hours per week but with no overtime payments.

In September 2010 or early October 2010, Senchenko informed Vekhov and another staff that she was pregnant but they were allegedly not pleased about it and expressed concern about her pregnancy-related medical bills.

The next day, the defendants allegedly conspired with the staff to force her to quit and accused her of misappropriating funds from the company.

"Defendants also repeatedly verbally abused plaintiff, yelled at her, accused her of stealing money from the company, and told her to stop working. Plaintiff was constructively discharged in violation of public policy and her contract," the complaint said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Tanapag meeting hall, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, and Saipan World Resort and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Bright Minds Day & Night Care

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this Conditional Use Application. Ms. Heeroo Gopinath would like to operate a Day Care Facility on a property zoned as "Village Residential". The proposed business activity on Lot #002 F 24 in Oleai-San Jose village would convert an existing residential structure for this new use. The property is directly north of the San Jose Church between Apengagh Avenue and Tammwoora Avenue.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6 , 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
University of Loyola Press

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. Mr. Johnny Fong would like to operate a printing press on a property zoned as Village Commercial. This proposed business would be located on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe on lot #384.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
P & A Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use Application. Mr. Kim, Hong Kyun would like to operate apartment space rental, hydroponic crop farming, agriculture food processing (import/export), lumber mill, and construction materials sales on a property zoned as "Mixed Commercial." The proposed business operations would be operated in an existing prefabricated steel structure buildings formerly occupied by Winners Garment Factory, situated on Lot 550 NEW-15 in Afetna, Saipan.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6 , 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Town House Inc.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use Application. Mr. Howard Wesner III is requesting to build a refrigerated warehouse on Lot 023 D 68, Lot 023 D 69, and Tract 22812, Lower Navy Hill. This is at the intersection of Pattida Drive and Chalan Pale Arnold Road. Town House Inc. will use the property for wholesaling activities as well as warehousing. The property is zoned as "Mixed Commercial".

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011
Time: 4:30pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, April 6 , 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 24, 1999

Legislator backs 2nd review of project bids

The chair of the House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications yesterday threw his support behind a complete review of proposals on the new power plant on Saipan as an independent evaluation is likely headed into a second round. In the meantime, a proposed legislation seeking government backing on the controversial project will continue to be deliberated by the panel until the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation reaches an agreement with a possible contractor. "We just have to wait," said committee chair Rep. David M. Apatang. "If the decision comes out and that they need government backing, we will continue and hold a public hearing on the bill."

FAA nixes Tinian runway expansion

The Federal Aviation Administration has rejected the proposal of the Tinian Delegation to use a $3.9 million local fund to extend the existing runway instead of developing a new one. In throwing out the plan, FAA said extending the existing runway will encroach on Broadway Avenue and would not be able to meet the 1,000 ft safety area requirement, according to Carlos H. Salas, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. FAA also cited the "line of sight" problem making it difficult for pilots to have a clear sight of the Tinian runway.

Mar. 24, 2000

House bill appropriates ambulance fee to DPS

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that will earmark the $250 fee paid for by patients transported to the Commonwealth Health Center by ambulance for repair and maintenance of the vans, as well as purchase of equipment and medicine. Backed by both public safety and health officials, the measure is intended to appropriate the money to the Department of Public Safety for the ambulance of operations instead of using the funds for general expenditures of the government. Under the present system, the Department of Public Health collects the fee and deposited into the general fund, not a single penny of which goes for the maintenance of the fleet of vans by the DPS.

Teno, airline executives discuss possible service

Local officials have begun talks with executives of a Chinese airline which will hopefully provide direct flights between the People's Republic of China and the Northern Marianas. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told reporters he met yesterday morning with representatives of China Eastern to iron out details on how the carrier can provide the service to the island. "They are interested in direct flight out of China to the CNMI [but they need to] meet several requirements before proceeding in providing service here," he told reporters, without elaborating. The island government has been trying to tap the huge number of potential tourists from PROC, but the effort has been hampered by local immigration laws which bar entry of nationals from that country.

Mar. 24, 2003

TSA underscores importance of aviation security

The Transportation Security Administration Saipan Office underscored the need for an airtight security measure at all airports across the United States to prevent any unforeseen circumstances that would endanger the lives of people and its interests. Because of this commitment, the TSA has crafted a detailed aviation-related monitoring and surveillance mechanism that checks all airports in the U.S. and its territories on a per-second basis. TSA-Saipan Director John T. Peoples said the U.S. Department of Transportation-TSA has crafted a secure link for all airports to make them all interconnected to one another-a measure that would allow each airport across the U.S. to monitor almost all activities.

'NMI entitled to $20K in Cardizem settlement'

House U.S. and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. William S. Torres is planning to round up insurance firms, healthcare providers and other local agencies to begin assessing reimbursements entitled to CNMI consumers who purchased the high blood pressure drug Cardizem CD between July 1, 1998 and Jan. 29, 2003. Torres is initiating the meeting after learning that the CNMI is entitled to some $20,000 out of the $7-million settlement in the case against pharmaceutical companies Aventis and Andrx—charged with conspiring to keep the generic version of Cardizem CD off the market for one year.

Tax lien filed vs 6 more companies

The Department of Finance-Division of Revenue and Taxation filed Tuesday in federal court separate notices of tax lien against six more companies that allegedly failed to pay their Business Gross Revenue and withholding taxes totaling $154,922.69.

Notices of tax lien were filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against Island Supply International Inc., D.S. Corp., Island Essence Inc., AE International Inc., USBC International Inc., and Global Ocean Divers Inc.

According to court papers, Island Supply International's total unpaid balance assessment amount to $26,754.44; while D.S. Corp. owes the government a total of $97,147.49; and Island Essense Inc.'s total unpaid balance assessments amounts to $15,901.22.

AE International allegedly owes the government $1,549.11; USBC International's unpaid balance assessments amounts to $2,288.41; and Global Ocean Divers Inc.'s owes the government $11,282.02.

Finance, through collection and remittance branch manager Richard F. Santos, said that Island Supply International failed to pay its BGRT Quarterly Return in 2010 and BGRT Quarterly Return for manufacturing and wholesaling in 2009 and 2010.

Santos said D.S. Corp. failed to pay its BGRT in 2009 and 2010.

He said Island Essence Inc. failed to pay its BGRT in 2009 and 2010 and withholding tax from 2008 to 2010.

AE International allegedly failed to pay its BGRT for a period in 2009 and twice in 2010.

USBC International allegedly failed to pay its BGRT for one period in 2010.

Santos said Global Ocean Divers Inc. failed to pay its BGRT from 2008 to 2010.

Santos said that demands for payment of these liabilities have been made, but they remain unpaid.

According to Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, the government has been filing notices of tax lien against several entities and individuals is because it has yet to collect $10 million to $12 million in unpaid taxes. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPW: Expect delays as Isa Drive roadwork continues

The Department of Public Works says the public should expect some level of inconveniences and delays as it works on federally funded road improvement projects along Route 31, also known as Isa Drive.

The project consists of three phrases:

Phase 1, under Hawaiian Rock Product, funded by the Federal Highway Aid, begins from San Vicente/ Dandan and ends near the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. super tank in Papago. It is expected to be completed by mid-November 2011.

Phase II-A under GPPC Inc., funded by both FHWA and ARRA, transitions from the end of phase I and ends after the Mobil gas station near the Kagman road intersection. It is expected to be completed by the later part of 2011.

Phase II-B, which transitions from the end of phase II-A and ends near Esco's bakery/ Talafofo road, will be starting before the end of 2011.

DPW said the department is working to better serve the transportation needs of the CNMI and apologizes for any inconveniences and delays this may cause the public. For more information, contact 235-9570 or 5827. ***(PR)***

GCA DONATES TO JAPAN CLUB OF GUAM GUAM CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

Tom Nielsen, president, Maeda Pacific Corporation presents a $10,000 check to Japan Club of Guam representatives Mark Hishikawa and Sonomi Sasayam. Members of the Guam Contractors' Association donated $24,100 to the Japan Club of Guam for tsunami relief. During the monthly membership meeting thousands of dollars more were pledged.

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

Request for Administrative Services

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is seeking a Project Assistant to provide **administrative and office support services** for the Board and Project Coordinator to develop and implement a breast and cervical cancer outreach project. The hours are flexible; some weekend and evening work will be required, however.

The Project Assistant must have a valid 2011 CNMI business license and must be ready to begin in April 2011 and work through September 2011.

Compensation is approximately $9-12 per hour, commensurate with experience. Approximately 15-20 hours per week will be required; actual hours per week are variable. In addition, the contractor will be reimbursed for mileage.

For a complete description of the qualifications required and the duties to be performed, call CCA at (670) 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume on or before 5pm on Monday, April 4, 2011 to cca@ccamarianas.org or hand-deliver to the CCA office on the first floor of the Nokalimi Plaza in Garapan.

Paid for by funding from CDC Reach U.S. Program

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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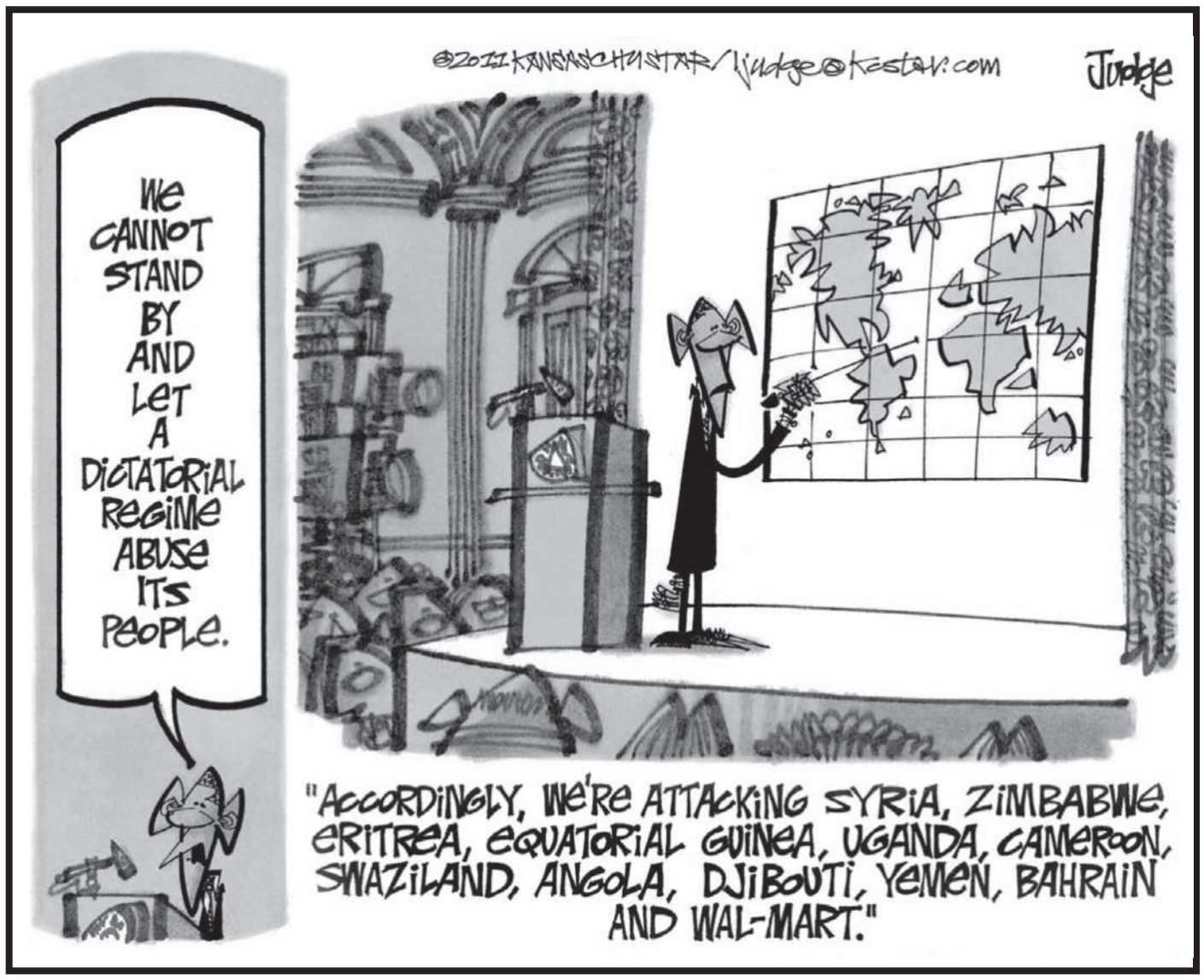
MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association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Judge
WE CANNOT STAND BY AND LET A DICTATORIAL REGIME ABUSE ITS PEOPLE.
"ACCORDINGLY, WE'RE ATTACKING SYRIA, ZIMBABWE, ERITREA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, UGANDA, CAMEROON, SWAZILAND, ANGOLA, DJIBOUTI, YEMEN, BAHRAIN AND WAL-MART."

Cyber dependence and national security

By PETER GOLDMARK
Newsday

Peter Goldmark, a former publisher of the International Herald Tribune, *headed the climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for* Newsday.

I've been searching for an article, or a blog, or a post that shines a spotlight on the important connection between the Japanese reactor explosions and the Gulf of Mexico oil blowout last year.

They're both part of the same story: the dependence today of the human adventure on advanced technology.

Japan has almost no domestic sources of energy. The Japanese import a lot, and it was natural for them to "go nuclear" to generate electricity. The United States has dwindling oil reserves, and it was logical to authorize offshore drilling whenever and wherever possible.

In both cases we are talking about "needs" that are enormous, and basic, to a modern economy. And in both cases, the technology involved is complicated, and mounted on such a large scale that if something goes wrong, the consequences are magnified. A tsunami is a natural disaster. The BP oil gusher and what may be an impending Japanese meltdown are man-made ones, arising from imperfect use of the technologies on which our economies are today completely reliant.

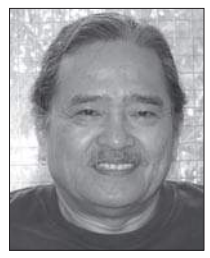
In some areas our dependence is nearly invisible but still very real. We can produce enough food to feed ourselves only with advanced technology—including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and genetic engineering to produce hardier or more productive crops. Our banking and financial systems are totally dependent on sophisticated, modern computers. So are our air transportation and electrical transmission systems. But while we are fixated now on natural disasters and the havoc they can wreak, the largest and most dangerous hidden weakness of our dependence on technology is the vulnerability of these systems to computer attack or breakdown. Remember Conficker? It's a computer "worm" that first appeared three years ago and has evolved since then in both slyness and potential lethality. Is it run by organized crime? By a nation with advanced computer capabilities? By a clandestine branch of the U.S. government? No one professes to know.

But threats like that make you think about what systems in our interdependent globe rely heavily on modern, interlinked electronics.

The list is long—and central to the ability of our economies to function. Jack Goldsmith, an expert on cyber warfare, writes: "Taken together, these factors—our intimate and growing reliance on computer systems, the inherent vulnerability of these systems, the (digital) network's global nature and capacity for near instant communication (and thus attack) ... and the difficulty anonymity poses for any response to a cyber attack or cyber exploitation—make it much easier than ever for people outside one country to commit very bad acts against computer systems and all that they support inside another country. On the Internet,

See CYBER on Next Page

He is heavy, he's my brother



By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

While perusing articles and photos of Japan on the Internet, I chanced on my younger brother's photography site (www.alexvergaraphotography.com), a result of his shutter bugging in some 80 nations (so far). His takes in Japan included ground zero in Hiroshima, a recent theme on my mind since an elderly SAU Nihongo instructor from the city is my neighbor, and anything nuclear chills our spine. He also has shots of Japan of recent memory; in one, my nephew and niece, along with a deer walking freely on the grounds of a Shinto temple, devotees preparing for their rituals, and my niece pouring ablutionary temple water into her palms.

My brother has a roving eye, primarily through his camera lens. My first SLR was bought after he asked me to pick up a Pentax in Osaka that he ordered on my way to Manila. I planned to visit Expo70 on a trip from the U.S. East Coast to the Philippines. My route from North Carolina to New York, and Tokyo took a fueling stop in Anchorage. Foolishly, I left my wallet and checkbook at the airline counter in Alaska, alerted the stewardess upon realizing the fact when already airborne. The pilot radioed and received word that it was found and kept at the office. However, it was the weekend, so personnel could not deal with it until Monday.

My planned trip to Osaka gave my wallet time to catch up with me. Unfortunately, it also meant I could not go into the fair grounds, nor could I afford the new bullet train. I took the milk run, which was just as well since we were elbow-to-elbow with the hoi polloi, and I blended easily with the indigenes. The sight of majestic Fuji was priceless, more long lasting than what it would have been on the high-speed train. The scenery also triggered my interest to upgrade my 135mm fixed lens camera.

The owner of the small camera shop in Osaka visited the Philippines earlier and met my brother so I asked if I could go ahead and take the camera and send the payment later. Something about the ease by which trust was established earned Nippon my eternal gratitude. Thus, cyberspace magazine *Slate* commentator Christopher Beam's suggestion last week that the absence of looting in Sendai after last week's triple debacle of tremor, tsunami, and radiation was less from the trait of honesty as it was also from commercial incentives left a sour tone. Given the media source, we should be used to media's skepticism. Iconoclastic verbiage sells.

However, our story is our continuing coverage of Nippon's noticeable countenance in the face of a heart-wrenching disaster, and stumbling on my brother's eye trained in visual arts (first with the brush, then with the shutter) and journalism. Both served him well in his career.

"I used to look at the world around me through the lens of my camera. And now, I look at my photographs through the lens of my soul." My brother has turned sage in his mature age. With a full service with the United Methodist Church, a chaplain for the Honolulu Police and the FBI, organizer for the Aloha Medical Mission, author and freelance photo and news journalist, his chest of experience is a treasure.

I have myself connected with Japanese brothers and sisters in the business of bending history, some from Sendai and Fukushima, and in the service of salving the wounds on the planet and its denizens, the last being with UMC colleague Rev. Claudia's group at West Tokyo Union. We have eaten of the shared bread I had broken, and drank of the wine they had poured. Our communion is at once contemporary and ancient, urgently relevant and languishly archaic. In Japan's yin-yang, it has aesthetically married the two.

My brother, he gained the world, nay, ascended to the pinnacles of the planet, took snapshots of a wide geography and the artifacts of humanity's history-long journey, and he is mindful enough to have gained his soul in the process. His captured images of the world also mirror his soul, and he is sharing it with the world.

"What profits a human if s/he gains the whole world but loses her/his soul," a voice from the Palestinian foothills cries. Japan lost a world of its creation and the rebuilding will take five years, by IMF's reckoning. But s/he has not lost its soul. The Zen calmness it has quietly shown could very well reveal that in the profundity of its soul, it is reaching depths of humanness it had not attained before. Heavy. It would do us well to heed the rhythm of its soulful sighs and songs!

My brother snapped life's poetry in stills. He is heavy. He makes me and our mother proud. But this is no paean to extraordinary souls. It is a nod and affirmation in praise of the ordinary. Many have termed the Japanese discipline as ant-like in its routines and adherence to established practice. But as a divine once noted, it takes a lot of mindfulness to be ordinary. Nothing remarkable with Nippon's subway riders save that they get off at the end of their line and the bicycle they ride home daily, unsecured with locks, will still be there.

Nothing striking about my brother saves that his ubiquitous lens could catch a human emotion and a magnificent sight in still. He is heavy, he's my brother.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Economic restoration

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Tribune

Rik Villegas is a writer, business consultant and instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

The Economic Restoration Summit was held Tuesday and Wednesday at the World Resort to develop plans for five core industries identified by various sectors at the first Economic Restoration Summit held in 2009. Those industries include aquaculture, agriculture, call centers, eco-tourism, and education tourism.

Muliufi Hannemann gave the keynote address to kick off the event. As the former mayor of the city and county of Honolulu, Mr. Hannemann was well-versed on the key components necessary to develop a strong and sustainable tourism industry. There were many takeaways and valuable lessons he shared that are readily applicable to the CNMI to promote the islands with what Mr. Hannemann calls the five S's: sun, sand, sea, surf, and spirit of Aloha. The four key components that he addressed focused on public safety, infrastructure and construction, air service, and marketing. Let's look at each of these components and how they might apply in our situation.

Public Safety. A primary consideration for someone planning a vacation is whether the location is safe and secure. The real or perceived lack of safety will thwart a person's travel plans to an area. Political unrest, violent crimes, theft, or feeling like one's been swindled can all leave a person with a bad experience that will be shared with others when the vacation is over. One of Mr. Hannemann's priorities as mayor was to emphasize strong public safety so that visitors would feel safe walking the sidewalks of Honolulu. This eventually led to the city being named by the FBI as one of America's safest big cities.

The CNMI should consider the safety and security of our visitors. They should feel safe walking the sidewalks of Garapan, going to tourist locations, or just taking a stroll along Beach Road. There should be better animal control measures to deal with feral dogs that sometimes wander in packs in public places.

Infrastructure and Construction. There are many ways that this can attract or detract visitors from an area. Mr. Hannemann brought wireless Internet service to public areas, city facilities, and parks. He earned national recognition for these accomplishments as well as his efforts to expand Honolulu's online services. Under his watch the Honolulu Zoo was renovated with more attractions, roads and sidewalks were widened, more trees were planted and the sewage system was upgraded.

Mr. Hannemann also received the American Public Transportation Association's 2010 Local Distinguished Service Award for his role in Oahu's rail transit project. He shared with us that the rail transit system had been pursued for 40 years. One of his truisms is: "The longer you delay, the more you're going to pay."

Infrastructure also includes sewage and drainage, power and water. This is an area that the CNMI has struggled long to remedy. The recent proposal to raise rates by 44 percent will be the death knell for many businesses now struggling to survive. It may mean reduced services to tourists or simply passing on the higher cost to do business to customers. Improving our infrastructure needs have long been delayed, and now a higher cost will be paid.

Air Service. Hawaii experienced the loss of air service from some carriers. Mr. Hannemann shared that 2007 to 2009 were difficult years, but some of the airlines saw that Hawaii never stopped promoting their islands as a tourist destination, so the airlines were committed to remain. He also said that there should be a balance between hospitality and security. It should be easy to get visa waivers and to transition through an airport and still feel welcomed.

Marketing. Tourism is Hawaii's core competence and Mr. Hannemann discussed some of the elements that have attracted seven million tourists to Hawaii each year. They have great golf courses, ongoing sports events such as marathons, triathlons, and the Pro Bowl. Film and television opportunities are available with film studios on the island. The TV series *Lost* and the remake of *Hawaii 5-0* are filmed there. Numerous movies such as *Jurassic Park* have also been shot on the islands. Agri-tourism is another element, which includes the pineapple festival on Lani, and Maui's food festival. There are also world-class chefs and great dining experiences. In addition, there are numerous brand marketing opportunities that attract meetings and conventions.

The many marketing activities are funded primarily by a 9.25 percent hotel room tax that is apportioned for marketing, conventions, and the government's take. Mr. Hannemann encouraged us to take advantage of the Travel Promotion Act, which collects $40 million from a portion of the visa waiver fees, along with private sector funds. This money is intended to attract international visitors, and if the CNMI combines their efforts with other regional destinations, he believes we should be able to receive a share of this amount.

There was a lot to think about after Mr. Hannemann's address, and he left us with 3 P's to consider: Patience, Partnership, and Promise. We should have **Patience** as we work to find solutions to our situation. There are no quick fixes, and we will experience setbacks, but we must persevere. It's important to develop **Partnerships** with the government, community, businesses, and all stakeholders. There needs to be buy-in with the goals that we decide to pursue. We should particularly consider workforce development in our plans to make sure we have the workers and that the jobs are attractive. Lastly, the direction we take should offer a **Promise** for a better future. This means we should take the long view and consider how this will benefit our children and our children's children.

This was wise counsel from someone who demonstrated leadership and commitment over his stewardship. For the CNMI to make sustainable progress in any of the five industries it will also take leadership and commitment to make it happen. Time is the great revelator that will show if we have what it takes.

Letters to the Editor

Rota needs alternate emergency route

The recent tsunami warning on Rota proves that there was confusion among people residing in Songsong Village and that alternate routes for emergency access should be addressed. Some people from low-lying areas in Songsong Village continued to head through the beach road route to Sinapalo Village for safety. In the course of and effect of tsunami warning, it is rather unsafe for people to take chances crossing beach road to any higher ground. A tsunami is a deadly disaster that kills thousands of people, most recently in Japan and Indonesia. The government should not take this situation lightly and steps should be taken by DPW to take the necessary action and assist toward creating and designating tsunami alternate emergency routes for people during tsunami alerts.

If I recall correctly, Rota DPW had recommended through the CNMI comprehensive highway master plan to designate the area from Taimama' station of the cross leading to Route 102 in Saliigai Hulo' and on to Mananana connecting to Route 011 as an alternate route. This seems to be more suitable to serve the people in times of tsunami emergency. Once people in Songsong village reach higher ground in the Taimama' area, it will be safer for them to proceed to a more secure place such as Sinapalo village or Isang area. Since the emergency alternate route is considered priority and critical to the needs of people, it is equally important that such funding source be secured, perhaps through the ARRA grants similar to the one approved for the cross-island road improvements on Saipan. If Saipan could be approve for road improvement under ARRA funding, Rota and Tinian should be as well. There is no reason why we cannot accomplish such alternate emergency route when funding is available under ARRA grants for CNMI and, of course, under the Federal Highway Administration's transportation improvements for territories.

Also, during the tsunami warning, the early warning system was not activated. I don't exactly know what happened to the system, but maintenance and testing should always be done. The Incident Command System emergency responders through SOP were not activated as well. In fact, responders were equipped with portable handheld radios for their immediate communication in times of emergency. I believe only DPS personnel and a few volunteers assisted people through the use of sirens and manual announcement. I think it was the right time during the recent tsunami warning for the Incident Command System emergency responders to try out and exercise their initial training. What's the use of emergency responders' training if they don't use their expertise in times of emergency? That's exactly why Homeland Security and EMO were spending time, efforts, and funds to equip them with refresher courses and certification. Thank God we were all safe and the tsunami did not hit our island. But what if the tsunami hit us in the middle of confusion and without proper SOP coordination? I will guarantee it will be a disaster for our people, especially those residing in Songsong village. The tsunami in Japan and Indonesia are enough experiences that we should never forget and we must always be prepared and not take any chances. I hope our leaders will be vigilant in pursuing what is necessary to improve the safety and protection of our people.

Rufo Maratita
Sinapalo I, Rota

No to rezoning in Susupe

My name is Mr. Torcuato M. Castro and I live in Susupe. My house is located very close to the proposed warehouse building. I am handicapped and I am very strongly opposed to the re-zoning of this area for commercial use. Please let us keep the village of Susupe free from being commercialized. I have seen one company close the road when they are putting their container on their ramp. Sometimes it takes more than 10-15 minutes to complete. I am handicapped and I need the access road to be clear all the time in case of emergency. You and the rest of the members of the Zoning board must deny this application. Tell the owner to stay in the Lower Base area or rent one of the old garment factory warehouses.

The company that wants to rezone our area from village residential to village commercial currently owns and operates a trading company located in the Lower Base area, which is confined within the port and industrial area. They operate a wholesale type of business selling liquors and cigarettes on Saipan and Guam. Please understand that this company also sells feeds and fertilizers and if not properly handled could cause environmental and health problems in this small village. Another concern that I have is that this company deals with containers. You and I know that these containers are brought in sometimes from Guam and they may bring in or introduce brown tree snakes from Guam into our small, quiet, and peaceful village of Susupe. The present location and type of operation that this company is operating now is consistent with his current environment in Lower Base. It should stay and continue operation within that area and not re-locate to a residential community.

Secondly, who is the engineering firm for this project? The turning radius is not sufficient to accommodate a 20-foot, let alone a 40-foot, container to make a clean turn to get to the corner into Susupe St. and again into Tokcha Av. and finally into their property. A 20- to 40-foot container needs or requires at minimum a 45- to 50-foot turning radius according to some engineering company that I have contacted. Get your homework done and get a more technical team to inform you as an investor that this area is a village residential and it must be protected and should stay that way. We ask that you vote "no" to this project request and proposal. Let us keep all residential areas absolutely for residential development only.

Thank you and we hope that the Saipan Zoning Office will adhere to the regulations as mandated in keeping such unappealing types to businesses from quiet and peaceful residential areas on our island.

Torcuato M. Castro
Susupe, Saipan

CYBER

From Page 10

states and their agents, criminals and criminal organizations, hackers and terrorists are empowered to impose significant harm on computers anywhere in the world with a very low probability of detection."

It is almost certain that we witnessed last year one of the first sustained cyber attacks on a country's weapons systems. The target was, and remains, Iran's nuclear weapons program. The name of the rogue computer program is Stuxnet. Who's the attacker? Is it the United States or Israel, as some have speculated? Someone else? Who decided this should be done? How will Iran respond? What systems on which we depend for the provision of daily services and security are not vulnerable to chaotic disruption by computer attack? Very, very few.

Welcome to the 21st century.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

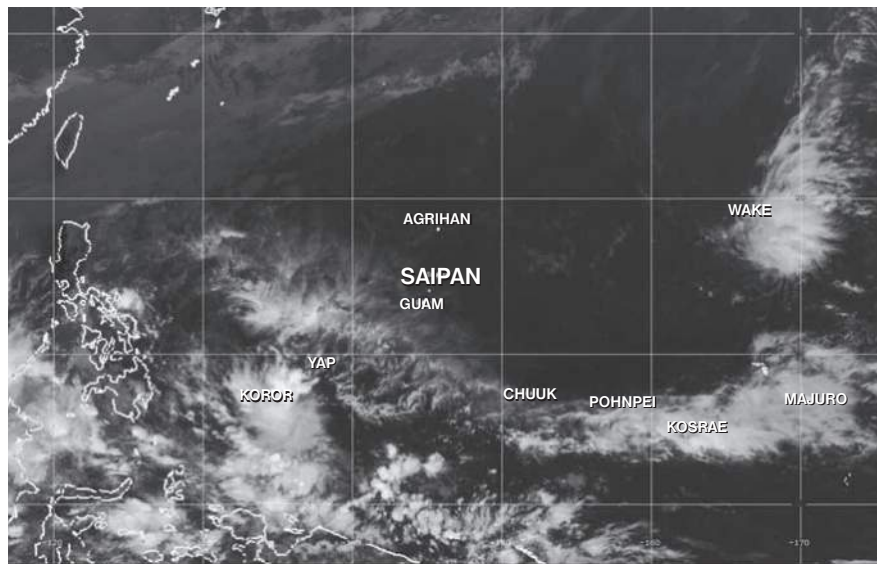
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼34
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼41
Los Angeles	Rain	▲57	▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲67	▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲84	▼64
New York	Ice	▲39	▼30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Paris	Sunny	▲64	▼40
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼38
Rome	Sunny	▲65	▼47
Salem	Showers	▲57	▼42
San Francisco	Rain	▲54	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼30
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼38
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲58	▼43

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front well northwest of the Marianas extends southwestward from 25N140E to beyond 130E at 21N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 4N130E through a weak circulation centered south of Yap at 5N138E to end at 3N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Koror between the equator and 9N from 132E to 138E and south of 4N from 141E and 146E. An upper-level low is centered near 16N164E. Divergent upper-level winds east of the low are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake Island between 15N and 23N from 167E to 171E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro but south of Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line from 5N153E to 6N167E to 8N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:58 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:08 PM	9:42 AM
Friday		10:39 AM
Saturday	12:06 AM	11:36 AM
Sunday	12:59 AM	12:32 PM
Monday	1:47 AM	1:25 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Coast Guard monitors radiation risk to Pacific ports

GUAM—The U.S. Coast Guard is working to ensure the safety of the maritime transportation system in the aftermath of the tragedy in Japan.

Based on an analysis by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, there is no indication that harmful radiation will reach the U.S., whether it is the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska, or U.S. territories including Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The U.S. government has determined that radiation levels outside a zone of 50 miles centered on the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant do not pose a human health hazard. As a result, the Coast Guard has issued a Navigational Warning advising vessels to avoid transiting within a precautionary area of 50 miles of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

As vessels and cargo that remain outside of the precautionary area do not pose any human health hazard, they will not be subject to additional screening or evaluation. Vessels known to have transited the precautionary area shall be considered for additional screening. However, the probability of contamination remains low for these vessels and any hazards are likely below levels considered to be hazardous to human health. Coast Guard Sector Guam will employ a three-part protocol to ensure the safety of vessels and cargo that have transited the precautionary area en route to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

1. Perform an at-sea boarding to check for elevated levels of radiation on the vessel and its cargo.

2. Ensure on-dock screenings of all cargo offloaded from Japan to the Ports of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

3. Ensure availability of appropriate emergency response teams if harmful levels of radiation are detected.

To date, there have been no vessels that have transited within the 50-mile zone around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant en route to U.S. ports, including the Territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Moreover, normal shipping routes of vessels departing ports open for operations in Japan do not place any vessels within 100 nautical miles of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The Coast Guard, at the highest levels, will continue to monitor the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Coast Guard Sector Guam will continue normal screening, boarding, and inspection procedures to ensure the continued safety and security of ports and waterways in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(USCG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC 2011 graduation candidates meeting

Spring 2011 graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee Meeting on March 25, 2011, Friday, at Room D1 on the NMC campus at 7pm.

The meeting will feature updates on graduation, a discussion on the plans for the graduation theme, the election of class officers, and other matters. For more information, email Daniel Kintol at danielk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2011 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. ***(NMC)***

Tender Love Childcare Center opens registration

Tender Love Childcare Center, formerly Pacific Knights located on Atdao St. in Dandan village across Dandan Elementary School is now open for registration from 9am-5pm. For more information, call 288-0732 or contact Joy at 233-6183. ***(PR)***

Memorial Day committee meetings

May 30, 2011 is Memorial Day, a day where we will be paying tribute and remembrance to the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy the fruits of freedom we love. This is to let anyone interested in being part of the 2011 Memorial Day Committee that the committee will be meeting every Tuesday at 9am at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. Everyone is welcome. ***(PR)***

Tudor back on island from Japan

Dr. Edgar Tudor, DVM, of Paradise Island Animal Hospital, has returned to Saipan from Japan where he assisted in the care of the rescue dogs being used in the aftermath of the recent earthquake and tsunami there. ***(PR)***

No classes at Chacha Ocean View on Friday

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School is scheduled to have a statewide professional development on March 25, 2011. There are no classes for all students. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach on Rota, Saipan

This is to let all veterans and all concerned that Tina San Augustine, Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam, and Ruth Coleman, executive director of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office, will be on Rota and Saipan on April 4-7, 2011, for a veterans outreach on federal benefits. They will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

- Rota: April 4-5, at 8:30am-4:30pm at the Rota WIA office
- Saipan: April 6-7, 2011, at 8:30am-4:30pm at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capital Hill, building 1364.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, call Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

OES kindergarten registration ongoing

Oleai Elementary School kindergarten student registration for school year 2011-2012 will begin on April 5, 2011 and end on April 30, 2011, from 9am to 4pm daily.

Kindergarten students must be born between Sept. 1, 2005, and Aug. 30, 2006. The following documents are required to be enrolled: birth certificate, school entrance health certificate (updated), current school accident/ health insurance/ medical (updated), map of residence, and legal adoption/ guardian document (court issued).

Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje hill north of Island Market (Calvo's) to Falughula and San Jose, Oleai. ***(PR)***

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES

CORPORATION – ELECTRIC DIVISION **DOCKET 09-1**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 10:00 a.m. on April 11, 2011, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission *[Commission]* will conduct a public hearing at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room[1] Capitol Hill, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on proposed rate adjustments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] electric rates.

1. **CUC amended petition for electric base rate adjustments.**

The Commission will examine CUC's November 10, 2010 petition for base rate relief, as amended on December 8, 2010, February 9, 2011 and March 9, 2011, which request that effective on May 11, 2011 its electric base rate revenues *[which does not include fuel revenue, as discussed below]* be increased on an annualized basis by about 44% from $19.9 million to $28.7 million dollars. CUC proposes that this additional revenue be produced by rate increases, which would be assessed on its three customer classes *[residential, commercial and government]* in the manner set forth in its public notice, as published in the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* on March 11, 2011. CUC asserts that this increased base revenue is just, reasonable and necessary to enable it to comply with: a] the statutory mandate that it bill and collect adequate rate revenue to recover the costs associated with the operation and delivery of electric service, including financial reserves and b] the requirements of the Federal Stipulated Order dated March 11, 2009, in *USA v. CUC and CNMI*.

CUC's petition, as amended, is supported by testimony and documentary evidence, which is available for public review at its administrative office on the 3rd floor, Joeten Dandan Building and at its Tinian and Rota offices. The Commission has tasked its independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown] to investigate, review and submit testimony on CUC's petition, as amended. Georgetown's report will be filed with the Commission on March 25, 2011 and will then be available for public review at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya, Attorney for Georgetown Consulting, and at CUC's offices, as identified above.

2. **LEAC Rate and collateral matters.**

Pursuant to a tariff established by regulatory order on December 19, 2008, the Commission reviews and approves the semi-annual LEAC *[levelized energy adjustment clause]* rate, which CUC is authorized to charge its electric customers to recover its projected fuel and related expenses during the period. CUC's LEAC rate is separate from its base rates, which are intended to fund its non-fuel operational and capital expenses. By transmission dated March 21, 2011, CUC and Georgetown have recommended that for the period May 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, the current LEAC rate of $0.28125 cents per kWh should be increased to $0.30852 cents per kWh *[a 9.6 percent increase].* On or before March 22, 2011, CUC and Georgetown will file a joint report, which will document this joint recommendation and which will also reconcile projected versus actual fuel expenses incurred by CUC in prior LEAC periods and will recommend appropriate adjustments in order to keep LEAC charge revenue neutral. The March 22, 2011 joint LEAC report will be available for public inspection at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya, Attorney for Georgetown Consulting, and at CUC's administrative offices.

At the public hearing, the Commission will also consider CUC and Georgetown's positions with regard to CUC's November 10, 2010 petition for regulatory approval of a proposed fifth change order to CUC's contract with Telesource CNMI, Inc. for operation of CUC's Tinian power generation facilities. Georgetown's January 24, 2011 analysis of this petition is available for public inspection at the Law Office Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya, Attorney for Georgetown Consulting. In its analysis, Georgetown asserts that the proposed change order is not necessary, prudent or cost-beneficial to CUC's electric customers and should, therefore, be denied.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at its April 11, 2011 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before March 31, 2011 file with the Commission at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive (Whispering Palms), Chalan Kiya an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will schedule, notice and conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Robert T. Torres at 670-234-7859.

[1] The public's attention is called to the fact that this hearing location is a change from the location identified in CUC's March 11, 2011 public notice.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 4:30pm, Zoning Board Conference room, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Hearings
1. **Case 2011-0401.** A request by Mr. Johnny Fong, of University of Loyola Press, for a Conditional Use Permit. The University of Loyola Press would like to operate a printing press on property zoned as "Village Commercial". This proposed business would be located on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Nauru building. This is Lot 384 in the village of Susupe.
2. **Case 2011-0461.** A request by Ms. Heeroo Gopinath to obtain a Conditional Use Permit to operate a children's day care facility entitled "Bright Minds Day Care" on Lot 002 F 024 in the village of Oleai-San Jose. The site is zoned as "Village Residential". Ms. Gopinath intends to use an existing residential structure for this business. This property is directly north of the San Jose Church between Apengagh Avenue and Tammwoora Avenue.
3. **Case 2011-0497.** A request for a Conditional Use Permit by P & A Corporation to use the former Winners Garment Factory, on Lot 550 New-15, for warehouse and wholesale activities. The site is at the intersection of Afetna Road and Buninas Loop. This is two blocks east of Beach Road in the Village of San Antonio. The property is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
4. **Case 2011-0483.** A request by Mr. Jose R. Lifoifoi, Quad L's Company, to rezone lot #023-D89, and surrounding property, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial". Mr. Lifoifoi wishes to construct an apartment building at the intersection of Saluda Street and Publiko Drive. This is just east of Chalan Pale Arnold Road in lower Navy Hill.
5. **Case 2011-0420.** A request by Mr. Christopher A. Torres, of MEC LLC., to rezone lot #380-BNew-7-1-R1, and surrounding property, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial". Mr. Torres wishes to eventually construct a warehouse and wholesale operation at the intersection of Bakke Street and Tokcha Avenue. This is two blocks east of Beach Road in the village of Susupe.
6. **Case 2011-0604.** A request by Howard Wesner III of Town House Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit, to build a refrigerated warehouse on Lot 023 D 68, Lot 023 D 69, and Tract 22812. This is at the intersection of Pattida Drive and Chalan Pale Arnold Road. Town House Inc. will use the property for wholesaling activities as well as warehousing. The property is zoned as "Mixed Commercial".

D. Old Business.
1. Update on Zoning Office Operations.
2. Revisions to the Zoning Law.
3. Schedule of public outreach efforts.

E. New Business.
1. Office of the Public Auditor - Notice to File a Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2010.
2. HLB 17-26 – Schedule of Special Board hearings for each recommended rezoning in this bill.

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Business

Airlines whipsawed by costly fuel, Japan disaster

DALLAS (AP)—Already struggling with high fuel prices, the big U.S. airlines now face a drop in demand for flights to Japan, a lucrative route and gateway for travel to Asia.

The airlines' response: They're raising fares and eliminating unprofitable flights.

Delta Air Lines Inc. said Tuesday it will reduce flying to Japan by up to 20 percent through May because of falling demand as the country recovers from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Delta said the cuts will cost it $250 million to $400 million in lost profit.

■ ■ ■

TOKYO (AP)—The economic newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun says the government estimates the economic toll from Japan's earthquake and tsunami could exceed $300 billion.

The newspaper said Economy Minister Kaoru Yosano will present the estimate of 15 trillion yen to 25 trillion yen ($185 billion to $300 billion) at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The March 11 magnitude-9.0 quake and tsunami devastated Japan's northeastern coast and triggered a crisis at a nuclear power plant.

Utilities have imposed power rationing, many factories remain closed and key rail lines are impassable.

■ ■ ■

Delta will also reduce flying across the Atlantic and within the United States in the second half of this year. It won't grow as much as planned in Latin America and the Pacific.

American Airlines said Tuesday that it suffered "a modest decline" in revenue from the disruption of travel to Japan and bad weather at home. Still, American plans to push ahead with its joint venture with Japan Airlines next month.

United and Continental announced Monday that they too will slow their plans for adding international flights and make deeper cuts in the U.S.

The airlines had hoped to build on 2010, their first profitable year since 2007, by flying more passengers, particularly big-spending corporate travelers buzzing to business hubs such as Tokyo. Instead, they're being forced to make up for a sharp increase in jet fuel prices—up nearly half since September and about 20 percent since the start of 2011.

Delta said Tuesday that at current projected prices, it will spend $3 billion more on fuel this year than it did in 2010.

With fewer flights, the airlines will save money by not burning as much fuel. They are also offsetting high fuel costs by raising prices on passengers.

United and Continental raised fares Monday on most U.S. flights by $10 per round trip. Delta responded with fare hikes of $6 to $14 per round trip. Other airlines stood pat for the moment.

If the higher prices stick, they would be the latest in a string of increases—nearly one a week—so far this year.

Delta maintains full operations at Narita Airport

»Remains committed to safe operations in Japan

TOKYO—Delta Air Lines will maintain normal operations at Narita International Airport, Kansai International Airport, and Chubu Centrair Airport and continues to be committed to safe operations in Japan.

"Delta's first priority is the safety and security of our customers and employees: this is the foundation for everything we do at Delta. Our current operations in Japan, in light of the recent tragic events, are no exception," the airline said in a statement.

To secure normal and safe flight operations, Delta is undertaking the following:

■ Delta is in regular contact with government and regulatory authorities in Japan and the U.S. to receive the latest information;

■ Delta has retained nuclear and medical experts to provide professional advice about the situation as it continues to unfold;

■ Delta has a team of more than 30 professional meteorologists in its Operations Control Center who are paying close attention to the wind patterns in Japan, in addition to monitoring weather patterns for our flights around the globe.;

■ Delta's expertly trained crewmembers are following safe flight patterns and monitoring no-fly areas imposed by the Japanese government.

Delta said it has been assured by all its experts that there currently is no health risk to flights into and out of Japan or Delta customers and employees staying/working in the Tokyo/Narita areas.

The situation in Japan remains fluid and if travelers are flying to and from Tokyo in the near future, Delta recommends they check Flight Status & Updates at delta.com prior to travel. Customers can also register for Delta Messenger Flight Notifications to get the most updated flight information.

Delta recently announced its cash and in-kind support to disaster relief efforts in Japan. The relief program includes immediate $250,000 cash donation to the Japanese Red Cross Society and the up to five million mile donation to World Vision Japan.

Delta will supplement any employee and customer contributions with additional cash, if needed, to fulfill its $1 million pledge. For more detail on Delta's relief effort, please visit Delta's newsroom at http://delta.jp.mediaroom.com/. ***(Delta Air Lines)***

FHB raises over $600K for Japan relief efforts

HAGATNA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank has raised over $600,000 in support of the Japanese relief efforts, according to an announcement today by Don Horner, First Hawaiian chairman and CEO.

In a related development, First Hawaiian's parent company, BNPP, recently announced that it was donating $1.2 million to the Japanese Red Cross Society to assist with the relief effort.

On March 11, First Hawaiian established the "Japan-Hawaii Relief Fund" to assist the survivors of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. First Hawaiian donated $100,000 to the fund. Donations are being accepted through March 31, 2011 at any First Hawaiian branch in Hawaii, Guam, and CNMI.

One hundred percent of the donations will go to the Japan America Society of Hawaii for the benefit of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

"The generosity of the local community has been truly heartwarming," Horner said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been impacted by this devastating tragedy. We look forward to another ten days of collecting contributions from the people of Hawaii, Guam and CNMI."

To further support the victims and their families, First Hawaiian is waiving all wire transfer fees from the U.S. to Japan for its personal customers.

The bank has also agreed to participate in "Aloha for Japan," a statewide effort to raise funds for the Japan America Society of Hawaii to benefit the Japanese Red Cross Society. Aloha for Japan was organized by Lt Gov. Brian Schatz, Japan Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo, and Hawaii business leaders.

The Japanese Red Cross Society was founded in 1877 and has an extensive network of branches in cities, towns, and villages throughout Japan. They also operate hospitals and blood collection agencies through the country. Her Majesty the Empress serves as Honorary President of the Society.

BNP Paribas is a leader in global financial services and one of the six strongest banks in the world.

First Hawaiian Bank is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank with over $15 billion in total assets and 63 branches throughout Hawaii, Guam and CNMI. ***(FHB)***

Nation

Obama: US will turn over control of Libya effort

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks during a joint news conference with El Salvador President Mauricio Funes at the Presidential House in San Salvador, El Salvador, Tuesday March 22, 2011.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The four-day air assault in Libya will soon achieve the objectives of establishing a no-fly zone and averting a massacre of civilians by Moammar Gadhafi's troops, President Barack Obama said Tuesday, adding that despite squabbling among allies, the United States will hand off control of the operation to other countries within days.

"When this transition takes place, it is not going to be our planes that are maintaining the no-fly zone," the president said at a news conference in El Salvador as he neared the end of a Latin American trip overshadowed by events in Libya. "It is not going to be our ships that are necessarily enforcing the arms embargo. That's precisely what the other nations are going to do."

Obama said he has "absolutely no doubt" that a non-U.S. command entity can run the operation, although perhaps the most obvious candidate—the NATO military alliance—has yet to sort out a political agreement to do so. The president said NATO was meeting to "work out some of the mechanisms."

Despite the cost—not only in effort, resources and potential casualties, but also in taxpayer dollars—Obama said he believes the American public is supportive of such a mission.

"This is something that we can build into our budget. And we're confident that not only can the goals be achieved, but at the end of the day the American people are going to feel satisfied that lives were saved and people were helped," he said.

Email to Wis. gov. initially favored union rights

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Seeking a way to counter a growing protest movement, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker cited his email, confidently declaring that most people writing his office had urged him to eliminate nearly all union rights for state workers.

But an Associated Press analysis of the emails shows that, for close to a week, messages in Walker's inbox were running roughly 2-to-1 against his plans. The tide did not turn in his favor until shortly after desperate Democrats fled the state to stop a vote they knew they would lose.

The AP analyzed more than 26,000 emails sent to Walker from the time he formally announced his plans until he first mentioned the emails in public—a span of seven days.

During that time, the overall tally ran 55 percent in support, 44 percent against. In the weeks since, Walker has continued to receive tens of thousands of emails on the issue.

The AP obtained the emails through a legal settlement with Walker's office, the result of a lawsuit filed by the news cooperative and the Isthmus, a weekly newspaper in Madison. The news organizations sued after the governor's office did not respond to requests for the emails filed under the state's open records law.

Walker's comments about the emails came on the evening of Feb. 17, as roughly 25,000 protesters packed into the Capitol's ornate rotunda and filled its lawn outside. They could be heard screaming outside the conference room where he met with reporters in a news conference broadcast live by several cable news networks.

ACROSS THE NATION

Screams fill 911 calls after fatal SC train crash

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Witnesses flooded authorities with calls pleading for help for screaming, bloodied passengers of a derailed children's train ride whose driver was quoted as telling police in reports that he was going too fast before the crash that killed a boy. "Hurry. There's a whole bunch," one frantic caller said in one 911 call, the audio obtained by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act. "One kid's leg almost tore off. One kid's not breathing." "The train fell off the bridge, and there were a bunch of little kids on it," another caller said, screams filling the background. "It's a bloody mess," said another. The callers reported chaotic scenes from a park in Spartanburg in the state's northwest, where a nearly 60-year-old train derailed Saturday and toppled off a bridge, killing 6-year-old passenger Benji Easler.

Kids missing after Ky. couple found slain are safe

EDMONTON, Ky. (AP)—Police say two children who they thought may have been in danger after a south-central Kentucky couple was found slain are safely in custody. Kentucky State Police Trooper Billy Gregory says an Amber Alert has been canceled for 15-year-old Christopher Endicott and 12-year-old Kyra Shockley. Police say the couple became Christopher's legal guardians in January and the girl was a friend of his. Police haven't released the names of the couple. They say relatives found them Tuesday afternoon in their home east of Edmonton.

Illegal immigrants in US Marine uniforms arrested

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Border Patrol agents caught 13 illegal immigrants wearing U.S. Marine uniforms at a border patrol checkpoint east of San Diego, an agency spokesman said Tuesday. The immigrants were in a white van that was stopped March 14 along Interstate 8, Border Patrol spokesman Michael Jimenez said. The van had a U.S. government license plate with an altered number, Jimenez said. He did not know where the group obtained the military uniforms. The immigrants all had Marine-style haircuts and the name tag "Perez" on their camouflage uniforms, U.S. Marine Corps officials told the Los Angeles Times.

Asia

As Japan mourns dead, many bodies remain missing

NATORI, Japan (AP)—Those in search of the dead go to Natori's bowling alley, walking up the cracked concrete steps and through the glass door. "Enjoy Coca-Cola," says a neon sign out front.

They go under the two-story painting of the bowling ball crashing into giant pins. They walk past the lists of the dead and the descriptions of the bodies yet to be identified. Inside, they step slowly through the makeshift morgue, peering into satin-wrapped coffins arranged in neat rows where bowlers so recently faced off.

They rarely find the people they seek.

■ ■ ■

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo Water Bureau officials say levels of radioactive iodine in some city tap water is two times the recommended limit for infants.

The officials told reporters Wednesday that a water treatment center in downtown Tokyo that supplies much of the city's tap water found that some water contained 210 becquerels per liter of iodine 131.

They said the limit for consumption of iodine 131 for infants is 100 becquerels per liter. They recommended that babies not be given tap water, although they said the water is not an immediate health risk for adults.

■ ■ ■

If a bowling alley is no place to comes to terms with death, there is another pain for many along northeast Japan's tsunami-battered coast, a pain less specific but perhaps just as agonizing: the pain of finding no body at all.

"There should be more bodies," said Marius Du Toit, a South African search and rescue team leader. His crew was walking through the shattered remnants of hundreds of houses in the devastated port city of Natori, turning over rubble in search of corpses.

Eleven days after the tsunami slammed into the coast, obliterating entire villages, more than 9,000 bodies have been found—but some 13,800 people are still missing. The police estimate more than 15,000 deaths are likely just in Miyagi, the province that includes Natori.

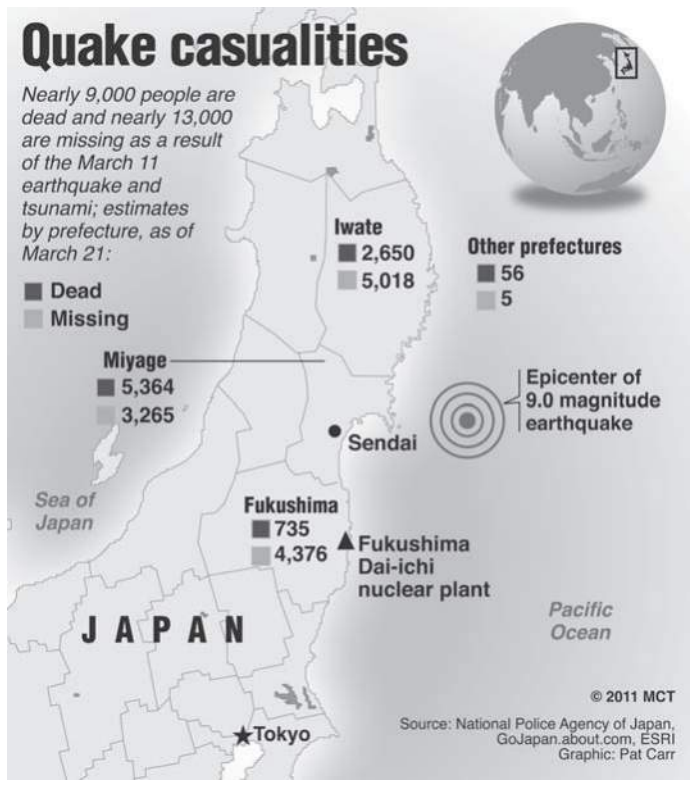
AP

An official updates a list of the dead outside a temporary morgue at a bowling alley in Natori, Miyagi Prefecture, Monday, March 21, 2011 as the death toll continues to rise following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeast coast of Japan.

Some of the missing will turn up elsewhere. They'll be in hospitals, or staying with relatives, or will have been on vacation. More corpses will be found too as rescue operations shift to the grim work of cleanup, digging through tons of rubble and muck.

Increasingly, though, officials and rescue teams believe many people will never be found.

A few days ago, rescuers were finding up to 50 bodies daily around here. Local officials were running out of body bags. Now, it's down to a couple of bodies a day. "We don't know where they are," Du Toit said.



Isoo Sasaki, the mayor of Natori, is from Yoriage, the neighborhood where Du Toit was searching. It was the old part of town, dating back centuries, from before the seaside fishing village became a modern city of 73,000.

"It is so terrible to find the body of a loved one," Sasaki said in his office, where he has been sleeping on the floor since one of the largest earthquakes in recorded history spawned the tsunami. "But perhaps those families are also lucky. Many people will not find a body at all."

As of Monday, 315 bodies had been identified in Natori, and well over 1,000 people were missing.

Much of Yoriage has been scrubbed from the Earth, with concrete foundations often all that remains.

Where the rubble has piled up, it is an incomprehensible jumble of splintered homes, fishing boats and smashed and shattered cars. One house is upside down. A bus is wrapped around the second floor of another. Concrete poles reinforced with steel are twisted like licorice strings.

Amid the devastation, it's the occasional signs of normalcy that look obscene: the little boy's underpants hung out to dry on a second-floor balcony, the wind chime that rings in the breeze.

If history is any guide, thousands of bodies will never be found. Of the 164,000 people who died in Indonesia in the December 2004 tsunami, 37,000 simply disappeared, their bodies presumably washed out to sea.

PH official: military graft staggering

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine defense official said Wednesday that an ongoing investigation has shown that "staggering" amounts of military funds have been lost to corruption in the past and safeguards would be reinforced to prevent such massive losses.

Corruption, long entrenched in Philippine society, is an especially explosive issue in the inadequately equipped and underfunded military and has sparked several rebellions by disgruntled troops in the past 25 years.

In the latest corruption scandal to rock the 126,000-strong military, former military budget officer Lt. Col. George Rabusa testified before the Senate in January that three former military chiefs of staff pocketed millions of dollars in funds intended for combat, intelligence, troop salaries and a military hospital.

Philippine funds for joint military exercises with U.S. troops and U.N. reimbursements for expenses incurred by Filipino peacekeeping troops abroad were also allegedly cut to fill a contingency kitty, from which the generals stole massive amounts of money, according to Rabusa.

The three retired generals denied Rabusa's allegations, which were made under oath before the Senate. One of the three, prominent general turned politician, Angelo Reyes, later committed suicide.

Department of National Defense spokesman Eduardo Batac said that initial findings by an investigating committee that was formed to look into Rabusa's claims showed massive corruption has happened in the past.

"Evidently, there were irregularities that were committed," Batac told a news conference. "Even to us at the department and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the amounts involved are staggering."

At least 86 proposals were being finalized by the committee to shield military logistical purchases, U.N. peacekeeping funds and money intended for combat and troops from graft, he said.

The defense department, Batac said, would focus on anti-graft reforms and let Department of Justice prosecutors file complaints against military officials accused of massive graft.

Rabusa has submitted sworn statements to the justice department to bolster possible plunder and graft charges against several generals, officers and conniving government auditors.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban assassination campaign impedes governance

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—For seven years, Rahim Baz Mohammad was an Afghan police detective on a spectacularly perilous beat—a province sitting directly between the capital and Taliban strongholds to the south and east. His case files bulged with kidnappings and murders. Recent victims included a government reform official shot to death in front of his house. In another case, a deputy provincial governor was killed when a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden rickshaw into his convoy. This month, after various threats on his own life by anonymous callers, Mohammad turned in his badge and locked himself inside his house.

Malaysia's govt softens stance on seized Bibles

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government has reversed its decision to stamp a seized shipment of Malay-language Bibles with serial numbers and government seals, softening its stance after Christians slammed the move as desecrating their holy book. A dispute over the distribution of Malay-language Bibles containing the word "Allah" as a translation for God has caused authorities to hold 35,000 Indonesian-made Bibles at two Malaysian ports since 2009. The government in this Muslim-majority country bans the use of "Allah" in non-Islamic texts, saying it could confuse Muslims or even be used to convert them.

China calls for immediate cease-fire in Libya

BEIJING (AP)—China called Tuesday for an immediate cease-fire in Libya where the U.S. and European nations have launched punishing airstrikes to enforce a U.N. no-fly zone. India, too, expressed concern over the campaign, repeating a mantra of both Asian giants that the violence in the North African country was an internal affair. All parties must "immediately cease fire and resolve issues through peaceful means," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said at a regularly scheduled news conference, citing unconfirmed reports that the airstrikes had caused civilian deaths.

World

Snipers, shells, tanks terrorize key Libyan city

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's snipers and tanks are terrorizing civilians in the coastal city of Misrata, a resident said, and the U.S. military warned Tuesday it was "considering all options" in response to dire conditions there that have left people cowering in darkened homes and scrounging for food and rainwater.

Libyan state TV broadcast what it was live coverage of a brief statement he made to enthusiastic supporters at his residential compound in Tripoli. it would be Gadhafi's first public appearance in a week.

Standing on a balcony, he denounced the coalition bombing attacks on his forces, and told the crowd, "in the short term, we'll beat them, in the long term, we'll beat them."

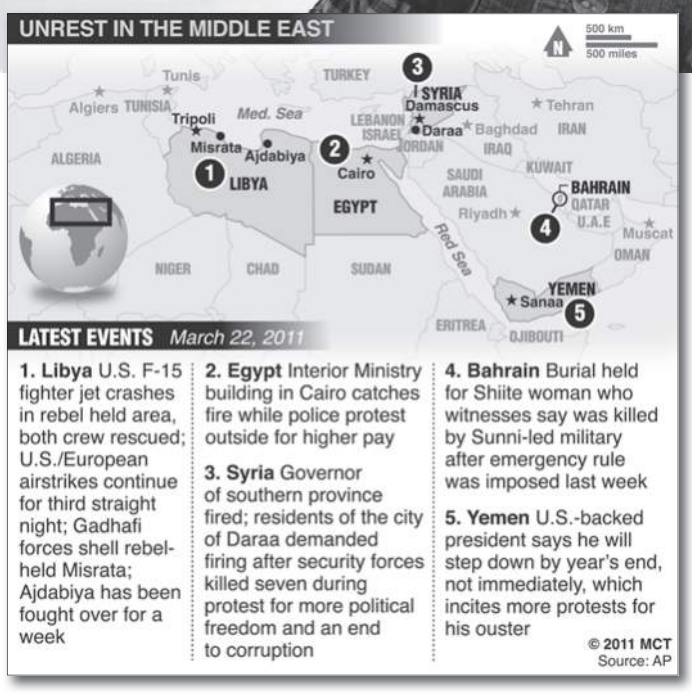
The state TV said Gadhafi was speaking from his Bab Al-Aziziya residential compound, the same one hit by a cruise missile Sunday night. Reporters were not allowed to enter the compound as he spoke.

"O great Libyan people, you have to live now, this time of glory, this is a time of glory that we are living," he said during the brief appearance of less than five minutes.

One of Gadhafi's sons may have been killed, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told ABC News on Tuesday. She cited unconfirmed reports and did not say which son she meant. She said the "evidence is not sufficient" to confirm this.

Clinton also told ABC that people close to Gadhafi are making contact with people abroad to explore options for the future, but she did not say that one of the options might be exile. She said they were asking, "What do we do? How do we get out of this? What happens next?"

A Libyan rebel adjusts his scarf before moving closer to the front-line after Moammar Gadhafi's forces fired on them on the front-line of the outskirts of the city of Ajdabiya, south of Benghazi, eastern Libya, Tuesday, March 22, 2011. AP



Heavy anti-aircraft fire and loud explosions sounded in Tripoli after nightfall, possibly a new attack in the international air campaign that so far has focused on military targets. But conditions have deteriorated sharply in Misrata, the last major city in western Libya held by the rebel force trying to end Gadhafi's four-decade rule. Residents of the city 125 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, say shelling and sniper attacks are unrelenting. A doctor said tanks opened fire on a peaceful protest on Monday.

"The number of dead are too many for our hospital to handle," said the doctor, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals if the city falls to Gadhafi's troops. As for food, he said, "We share what we find and if we don't find anything, which happens, we don't know what to do."

Neither the rebels nor Gadhafi's forces are strong enough to hold Misrata or Ajdabiya, a key city in the east that is also a daily battleground. But the airstrikes and missiles that are the weapons of choice for international forces may be of limited use.

"When there's fighting in urban areas and combatants are mixing and mingling with civilians, the options are vastly reduced," said Fred Abrahams, a special adviser at Human Rights Watch. "I can imagine the pressures and desires to protect civilians in Misrata and Ajdabiya are bumping up against the concerns about causing harms to the civilians you seek to protect."

Power crumbling, Yemen leader warns of civil war

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's U.S.-backed president, his support crumbling among political allies and the army, warned that the country could slide into a "bloody" civil war Tuesday as the opposition rejected his offer to step down by the end of the year. Tens of thousands protested in the capital demanding his immediate ouster, emboldened by top military commanders who joined their cause.

Ali Abdullah Saleh's apparent determination to cling to power raised fears that Yemen could be pushed into even greater instability. In a potentially explosive split, rival factions of the military have deployed tanks in the capital Sanaa—with units commanded by Saleh's son protecting the president's palace, and units loyal to a top dissident commander protecting the protesters.

The defection on Monday of that commander, Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, a powerful regime insider who commands the army's 1st Armored Division, has been seen by many as a major turning point toward a potentially rapid end for Saleh's nearly 32-year rule.

The question is whether the Yemeni chapter of the uprisings sweeping the Middle East will read more like Egypt—where the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak set the country on a relatively stable, if still uncertain, move toward democracy—or like Libya, which has seen brutal fighting between armed camps.

Already, clashes broke out late Monday between Saleh's Republican Guard and dissident army units in the far eastern corner of the country. On Tuesday, Republican Guard tanks surrounded a key air base in the western Red Sea coastal city of Hodeida after its commander—Col. Ahmed al-Sanhani, a member of Saleh's own clan—announced he was joining the opposition.

The turmoil raised alarm in Washington, which has heavily backed Saleh to wage a campaign against a major Yemen-based al-Qaida wing that plotted attacks in the United States.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, on a trip to Russia, said Tuesday that "instability and diversion of attention" from dealing with al-Qaida is a "primary concern about the situation." He refused to weigh in on whether Saleh should step down.

After a month of street protests—led mainly by students and pro-democracy advocates—against his nearly 32-year rule, Saleh became dramatically more isolated after security forces opened fatally shot more than 40 demonstrators on Friday.

The killings set off an avalanche of defections by top figures in his ruling party, influential tribal leaders and, most damagingly, al-Ahmar and a string of other top generals.

In a meeting Tuesday with his still-loyalist military commanders, Saleh railed against the dissidents, calling them "weak" and saying they "dropped away like autumn leaves."

"Those who want to climb to power through a coup should know that things won't stabilize. The nation won't be stable, it will turn into a civil war, to a bloody war, so they should think carefully," he said.

At the same time, he issued a softer statement, saying he "sympathizes with the youth" and calling on protesters to enter a dialogue. He said he believed their movement could "renew the democratic energy" in the country." Monday night, Saleh pledged in a meeting with senior officials, military commanders and tribal leaders that he would step down by the end of the year, according to a presidential spokesman, Ahmed al-Sufi. Saleh had earlier rejected such a proposal, making a more limited concession of promising not to run for re-election when his term ends in 2013.

Egypt's Interior Ministry burns as police protest

CAIRO (AP)—Fire swept the upper floors of Egypt's Interior Ministry building on Tuesday as policemen protested outside to demand higher pay. A security official accused demonstrators of starting the blaze in downtown Cairo.

TV footage showed flames climbing the top floors of the building and a huge plume of black smoke filling the sky. Later, firefighters on tall ladders sprayed water to extinguish the fire.

One protester denied they had lit the fire and accused those inside of setting if off by burning security files to get rid of evidence of police abuses.

Many Egyptians still associate the Interior Ministry's security forces with the worst excesses of the regime of ousted President Hosni Mubarak. Earlier this month, protesters rallied outside State Security offices across the nation, storming some of them in a search of evidence of human rights violations.

Tuesday's protest outside the ministry, however, was held by policemen themselves. They want a minimum salary of $200 a month—much more than many get now—and other benefits, including improved health care. The mass demonstrations that toppled Mubarak on Feb. 11 have set off frequent protests by laborers, including police officers, seeking to improve their lot.

The security official said protesters lit the fire in the building housing in the ministry's personnel department. It then spread to an adjacent communications building.

One protester who arrived to see fires burning in the two buildings said it couldn't have been started by the crowd because they had no way of entering the heavily guarded compound. He accused workers inside of burning security files and starting the blaze.

"It is as if light just started to arrive and they want to bring back the darkness," he said, giving only his first name, Amil, because he feared government retribution.

About 15 central security trucks cordoned off the complex to prevent demonstrators from storming it. It remained unclear how the fire started, though onlookers said it appeared to begin in the six-story building's middle floors, then spread to the top.

Thousands of people collected in nearby streets to watch as four fire trucks extinguished the blaze. Military police in khaki uniforms and red berets prevented them from approaching the building.

Focus

US spent-fuel storage sites are packed

By JONATHAN FAHEY and RAY HENRY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 11, 2006 file photo, the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant cooling tower is shown reflected in a pond near Rainier, Ore. The nuclear crisis in Japan has laid bare an ever-growing problem for the United States–the enormous amounts of still-hot radioactive waste accumulating at commercial nuclear reactors in more than 30 states. AP

The nuclear crisis in Japan has laid bare an ever-growing problem for the United States—the enormous amounts of still-hot radioactive waste accumulating at commercial nuclear reactors in more than 30 states.

The U.S. has 71,862 tons of the waste, according to state-by-state numbers obtained by The Associated Press. But the nation has no place to permanently store the material, which stays dangerous for tens of thousands of years.

Plans to store nuclear waste at Nevada's Yucca Mountain have been abandoned, but even if a facility had been built there, America already has more waste than it could have handled.

Three-quarters of the waste sits in water-filled cooling pools like those at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex in Japan, outside the thick concrete-and-steel barriers meant to guard against a radioactive release from a nuclear reactor.

Spent fuel at Dai-ichi overheated, possibly melting fuel-rod casings and spewing radiation into the air, after Japan's tsunami knocked out power to cooling systems at the plant.

The rest of the spent fuel from commercial U.S. reactors has been put into dry cask storage, but regulators only envision those as a solution for about a century and the waste would eventually have to be deposited into a Yucca-like facility.

The U.S. nuclear industry says the waste is being stored safely at power-plant sites, though it has long pushed for a long-term storage facility. Meanwhile, the industry's collective pile of waste is growing by about 2,200 tons a year; experts say some of the pools in the United States contain four times the amount of spent fuel that they were designed to handle.

The AP analyzed a state-by-state summary of spent fuel data based on information that nuclear power plants voluntarily report every year to the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry and lobbying group. The NEI would not make available the amount of spent fuel at individual power plants.

While the U.S. Department of Energy previously reported figures on overall spent fuel storage, it no longer has updated information available. A spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees nuclear power plant safety, said the capacities of fuel pools are public record, but exact inventories of spent fuel are tracked in a government database kept confidential for security reasons.

The U.S. has 104 operating nuclear reactors, situated on 65 sites in 31 states. There are another 15 permanently shut reactors that also house spent fuel.

Four states have spent fuel even though they don't have operating commercial plants. Reactors in Colorado, Oregon and Maine are permanently shut; spent fuel from all three is stored in dry casks. Idaho never had a commercial reactor, but waste from the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania is being stored at a federal facility there.

Illinois has 9,301 tons of spent nuclear fuel at its power plants, the most of any state in the country, according to industry figures. It is followed by Pennsylvania with 6,446 tons; 4,290 in South Carolina and roughly 3,780 tons each for New York and North Carolina.

Spent nuclear fuel is about 95 percent uranium. About 1 percent are other heavy elements such as curium, americium and plutonium-239, best known as fuel for nuclear weapons. Each has an extremely long half-life—some take hundreds of thousands of years to lose all of their radioactive potency. The rest, about 4 percent, is a cocktail of byproducts of fission that break down over much shorter time periods, such as cesium-137 and strontium-90, which break down completely in about 300 years.

How dangerous these elements are depends on how easily can find their way into the body. Plutonium and uranium are heavy, and don't spread through the air well, but there is a concern that plutonium could leach into water supplies over thousands of years.

Cesium-137 is easily transported by air. It is cesium-137 that can still be detected in a New Jersey-sized patch of land around the Chernobyl reactor that exploded in the Ukraine in 1986.

Typically, waste must sit in pools at least five years before being moved to a cask or permanent storage, but much of the material in the pools of U.S. plants has been stored there far longer than that.

Safety advocates have long urged the NRC to force utility operators to reduce the amount of spent fuel in their pools. The more tightly packed they are, the more quickly they can overheat and spew radiation into the environment in case of an accident, a natural disaster or a terrorist attack.

Industry leaders say new technology has made fuel pools safer, and regulators have taken some steps since the 9/11 terror attacks to reduce fuel pool risks. Kevin Crowley, who directs the nuclear and radiation studies board at the National Academy of Sciences, says lessons will be learned from the crisis in Japan. And NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko says his agency will review how spent fuel is stored in the U.S.

A 2004 report by the academy suggested that fresh spent fuel, which is radioactively hotter, be spread among older, cooler assemblies in the spent fuel pool. "You're buying yourself time, basically," says Crowley. "The cooler ones can act as a thermal buffer."

First Energy, which runs two nuclear power stations in Ohio and one in Pennsylvania, was able to reconfigure the spent fuel rods in its pools to make more room. Still, the company is now running out of space, says spokesman Todd Schneider. Ohio has 1,136 tons of spent fuel in pools and 37 tons in dry casks.

AP IMPACT

The casks in the U.S. are kept outdoors, generally on concrete pads, but industry officials insist they are safe. Unlike the pools, the casks don't need electricity; they are cooled by air circulation.

One cask model, selling for $1.5 million, places spent fuel inside a stainless steel canister, which is placed inside an "overpack"—an outside shell composed of a layer of carbon steel, 27 inches (68.58 centimeters) of concrete and another layer of carbon steel. When in place, the system stands 20 feet tall (6 meters) and weighs 150,000 pounds (68,040 kilograms), said Joy Russell, a spokeswoman for manufacturer Holtec International of Florida.

Russell said engineers have designed the system to withstand a crash from an F-16 fighter jet and survive the resulting jet fuel fire.

Plant operators in some states have moved aggressively to dry cask storage. Virginia has 1,533 tons of nuclear waste in dry storage and 1,105 tons in spent fuel pools. Maryland has 844 tons in dry storage and 588 tons in spent fuel pools.

Utilities in Texas, though, have not. There are 2,178 tons kept in spent fuel pools at reactor sites there, and zero in dry casks. In New York, 3,345 tons are in spent fuel pools while only 454 tons are in dry storage.

No cask is totally invulnerable, but the academy report found that radioactive releases from casks would be relatively low.

"If you attacked a fuel cask and managed to put a hole in it, anything that came out, the consequences would be very local," Crowley said.

Casks can be licensed for 20 years, with renewals, said Carrie Phillips, a spokeswoman for the Atlanta-based Southern Co., which has a dozen such casks at its two-reactor Joseph M. Farley plant in Alabama. She said officials have "every expectation" the casks could last "in excess of 100 years by design."

But not the needed tens of thousands of years. For long-term storage, the government had looked to Yucca Mountain. It was designed to hold 77,160 tons—69,444 tons designated for commercial waste and 7,716 for military waste. That means the current inventory already exceeds Yucca's original planned capacity.

A 1982 law gave the federal government responsibility for the long-term storage of nuclear waste and promised to start accepting waste in 1998. After 20 years of study, Congress passed a law in 2002 to build a nuclear waste repository deep in Yucca Mountain.

The federal government spent $9 billion developing the project, but the Obama administration has cut funding and recalled the license application to build it. Nevadans have fiercely opposed Yucca Mountain, though a collection of state governments and others are taking legal action to reverse the decision.

Despite his Yucca Mountain decision, President Barack Obama wants to expand nuclear power. He created a commission last year to come up with a long-term nuclear waste plan. Initial findings are expected this summer, with a final plan expected in January.

"They are 13 years late," says Terry Pickens, Director of Nuclear Policy at Xcel Energy, the Minneapolis-based utility that operates three reactors in Minnesota. Xcel is building steel-and-concrete cask containers to hold old waste on site, and suing the government periodically to pay for them. "We would like them to get done with what they said they would get done."

Some countries—such as France, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom—reprocess their spent fuel into new nuclear fuel to help reduce the amount of waste.

The remaining waste is solidified into a glass. It needs to be stored in a long-term waste repository, but reprocessing reduces the volume of waste by three-quarters.

Because reprocessing isolates plutonium, which can be used to make a nuclear weapon, Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter put a stop to it in the U.S. The ban was later overturned, but the country still does not reprocess.

France produces 1,300 tons of nuclear waste per year, and reprocesses 940 tons. Still, fuel is only reprocessed once and then it, too, needs to be stored. France is expecting that engineers will eventually succeed in building a new type of nuclear reactor called a fast reactor that will use the waste it can't reprocess as fuel.

"They've kicked the can down the road," says Frank von Hippel, a director of the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University.

Other countries, such as Germany, store spent fuel in casks. Finland is building a repository it says will store waste safely for 100,000 years.

Even though there is no long-term storage in the U.S., utility customers and taxpayers have been paying for it—twice.

Customers have paid $24 billion into a fund Congress established in 1982 to pay for such storage. The charge—a penny for every 10 kilowatt-hours—would typically add up to about $11 a year for a household that received all its electricity from nuclear plants.

Users pay as taxpayers, too—for dry storage. Utilities that have run out of storage space in pools successfully sued the federal government for breach of contract, because it failed to keep to the 1998 deadline to establish long-term storage. By law, the money for dry casks cannot come from the nuclear waste fund, and must come from the federal budget.

Environment

AT THE NEXT FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

How one person can change the world

Don't miss the next First Friday Films event, *The Man Who Planted Trees*. The beautifully animated film about a person who spends his life creating a forest highlights the impact one person can have.

The film plays at American Memorial Park on April 1, 2011, at 6:30pm.

The animated movie brings to life the classic story of an old man who collects acorns and other seedlings and revives a once deserted and barren wasteland and creates a beautiful environment for building homes and raising families. Guest speakers will highlight the importance of trees and how they breathe life into the world. Don't miss out on this wonderful and educational event!

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 85 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events.

For more information on the upcoming event feel free to contact Aric Bickel or Lisa Eller, Division of Environmental Quality 664-8510 or Nancy Kelchner, National Park Service, American Memorial Park, 483-7253. ***(PR)***

Trash-In Fashion Show set to hit runway

Sustainable eco-trends are about to sprout in fashion as local high school students prepare to hit runway in designs made from trash.

The *"Trash-In Fashion Show"* takes place on April 14 from 12pm to 1pm at American Memorial Park. The show will display clothing created by young fashion designers. The event's coordinators aim to inspire society to develop habits of the 3 Rs: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.

Trash-In Fashion Show is one of several events planned for the 2011 Environmental Awareness Month, hosted by the Division of Environmental Quality. This year's slogan is "Invest in the Real Green: Our Environment."

For more information, contact us-the Trash-In Fashion Show Committee, Olivia or Leilani, at DEQ 664-8500. ***(PR)***

Surprising sources of dangerous formaldehyde

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

You've heard of formaldehyde, haven't you? It's the stuff they use on dead bodies to delay decomposition. Creepy. What's even creepier—and much more worrisome—are the dangers that exposure to formaldehyde create for living bodies and the many ways this dangerous chemical finds its way into our homes. Exposure to formaldehyde is linked to a number of health issues, including asthma and cancer. It's often emitted over many years from certain pressed wood furniture pieces, carpet adhesives, and certain kinds of paint. However, there are other, much more surprising sources of formaldehyde in our homes. Here are some of the sources you should know about and ways you can Do Your Part to make a healthier choice.

▲ HAIR PRODUCTS

Usually, we don't think twice about what goes into our shampoos, hair gels, or even certain straightening treatments. Now, you'll know better. Formaldehyde is released by popular preservatives hidden in personal care products. Even some trendy professional hair straightening treatments are now testing positive for high amounts of formaldehyde even when they claim to be formaldehyde-free.

What should you do? Shop for products without the ingredients quaternium-15, imidazolidinyl urea, diazolidnyl urea, formalin, and methylene oxide. And, when at a salon make sure to ask your stylist about the products being used on your hair.

▲ NAIL POLISH

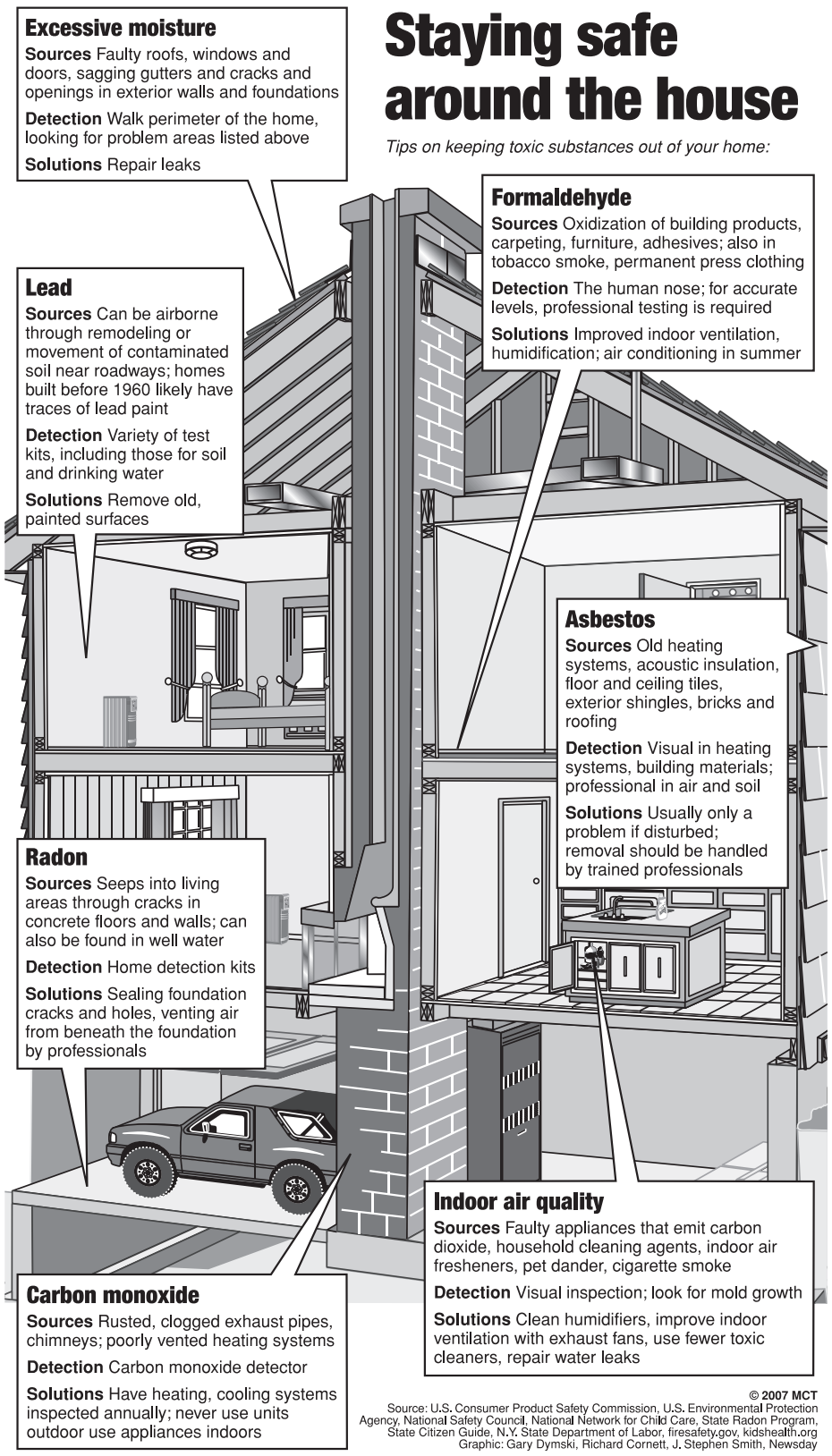
The next time you pick out a pretty shade of nail polish, make sure you aren't painting your nails with formaldehyde. That's because formaldehyde is often used in polishes to act as a preservative and as a nail hardener.

What should you do? The key is to pick nail polishes that are water-based. The good news is that some of the bigger nail polish brands are phasing out formaldehyde in their products.

▲ KIDS' DISHWARE

You've probably seen them—those brightly colored, hard plastic dishes and utensils made just for kiddies. These very things may actually be bad for them. Specifically, the ones made with melamine resin that is known to release formaldehyde.

What should you do? There are plenty of stylish, kid-friendly, and practical dishware sets available these days. Parents should look for ones made from non-toxic plastics, stainless steel, or even sustainable materials such as bamboo.


Staying safe around the house
Tips on keeping toxic substances out of your home:
Excessive moisture
Sources Faulty roofs, windows and doors, sagging gutters and cracks and openings in exterior walls and foundations
Detection Walk perimeter of the home, looking for problem areas listed above
Solutions Repair leaks
Lead
Sources Can be airborne through remodeling or movement of contaminated soil near roadways; homes built before 1960 likely have traces of lead paint
Detection Variety of test kits, including those for soil and drinking water
Solutions Remove old, painted surfaces
Formaldehyde
Sources Oxidization of building products, carpeting, furniture, adhesives; also in tobacco smoke, permanent press clothing
Detection The human nose; for accurate levels, professional testing is required
Solutions Improved indoor ventilation, humidification; air conditioning in summer
Asbestos
Sources Old heating systems, acoustic insulation, floor and ceiling tiles, exterior shingles, bricks and roofing
Detection Visual in heating systems, building materials; professional in air and soil
Solutions Usually only a problem if disturbed; removal should be handled by trained professionals
Radon
Sources Seeps into living areas through cracks in concrete floors and walls; can also be found in well water
Detection Home detection kits
Solutions Sealing foundation cracks and holes, venting air from beneath the foundation by professionals
Indoor air quality
Sources Faulty appliances that emit carbon dioxide, household cleaning agents, indoor air fresheners, pet dander, cigarette smoke
Detection Visual inspection; look for mold growth
Solutions Clean humidifiers, improve indoor ventilation with exhaust fans, use fewer toxic cleaners, repair water leaks
Carbon monoxide
Sources Rusted, clogged exhaust pipes, chimneys; poorly vented heating systems
Detection Carbon monoxide detector
Solutions Have heating, cooling systems inspected annually; never use units outdoor use appliances indoors
© 2007 MCT
Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Safety Council, National Network for Child Care, State Radon Program, State Citizen Guide, N.Y. State Department of Labor, firesafety.gov, kidshealth.org
Graphic: Gary Dymski, Richard Cornett, J. Stephen Smith, Newsday

▲ AIR FRESHENERS

Here's something that doesn't smell too sweet. The four basic ingredients in the popular air fresheners we place inside our home are formaldehyde, petroleum distillates, p-dichlorobenzene, and aerosol propellants. Here's another dirty side of air fresheners. They usually work by coating your nasal passages, deadening your ability to smell, or by covering up offending odors instead of getting rid of them.

What should you do? Use natural and non-toxic methods to get rid of unpleasant odors. Inexpensive baking soda works wonders and can be used most anywhere you have stinky odors. Soy candles and essential oils are safer ways to create pleasing scents in your home. And opening a few windows and airing things out is a quick, no-cost solution to fighting odors.

Are plastics polluting your home?

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

It's virtually impossible to go through a day without coming into contact with plastic. Take a second to think about everything plastic you touch each day. It could be your toothbrush, remote control, food containers, toys, pens, debit card, cell phone, laptop and I could go on and on. While we all enjoy the benefits of plastic, some plastics are a whole lot safer than others. And, there's one type that actually releases harmful chemicals that accumulate in our bodies, homes, and the environment. It's polyvinyl chloride—or PVC—and it's in more things than you may realize. Do You Part to recognize it and then avoid it!

Polyvinyl chloride is the third most widely used plastic in the world behind polyethylene (food containers and polyester fabrics) and polypropylene (non-food containers and molded plastics). PVC is widely used in the building industry in place of metal pipes. You've probably seen the white plumbing pipes being used in new construction. PVC is also used to make vinyl shower curtains, children's toys, and food containers. By itself, PVC isn't bad for you. It's the manufacturing process, the disposal process and the plasticizers used to turn it into soft, flexible vinyl that are responsible for polluting our bodies and our planet.

Manufacturing PVC releases a known human carcinogen, vinyl chloride (VC), into the atmosphere. Emissions from the PVC manufacturing industry are the leading source of VC in the air we breathe. In 2008, the EPA issued new guidelines to significantly reduce emissions from American PVC plants but there are many more manufacturers in developing countries that don't follow similar regulations. Once VC enters the atmosphere, it's blown around the world.

Disposing of PVC is also a problem. Like all other plastics, PVC products will likely never decompose. Incinerating this type of plastic is even worse because it releases dangerous dioxins, which are another substance suspected of causing cancer. PVC is recyclable but it's not easy or cheap because of its high chlorine content and the many plasticizers that are added to turn it into flexible, vinyl products.

These plasticizers help make products like vinyl shower curtains, waterproof fabrics, food containers and clear food packaging. One of the most commonly used plasticizers is a family of chemicals called phthalates (tha-lates). Because phthalates are not bound to the PVC they are easily released from the plastic, especially when heated. Phthalates are believed to contribute to reproductive defects (especially in males), premature births and impaired neurological development.

So how can you avoid PVC? Start by avoiding plastics labeled with a No.3 on the bottom. This identifies it as PVC. You also want to seek out vinyl products that are labeled PVC-free, which are now much easier to find. The U.S. now bans many dangerous phthalates in products for children under 12 but the ban took effect in 2009 and only for newly manufactured toys. This means there are still many children's products that contain dangerous phthalates on store shelves. Look for newer items labeled PVC-free when shopping for younger children.

Plastics clearly have a benefit in our society but there is more than one type to choose. Avoiding PVC products will help you Do Your Part for a healthier body and you'll be contributing fewer pollutants to the air all around us.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

AP source: Chris Brown destroys dressing room

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown trashed his dressing room at "Good Morning America" and broke a window with a chair Tuesday after co-host Robin Roberts asked him about his attack on Rihanna, according to a person familiar with the show.

The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Security was called, but not police.

Brown was on the ABC morning show Tuesday to promote his new album, "F.A.M.E.," released the same day. During his interview with Roberts, she asked him about the 2009 attack on his then-girlfriend—preceding her questions by noting he had been "very good" about talking about the attack.

"It was very serious what you went through and what happened," she said. "How have you been able to ..."

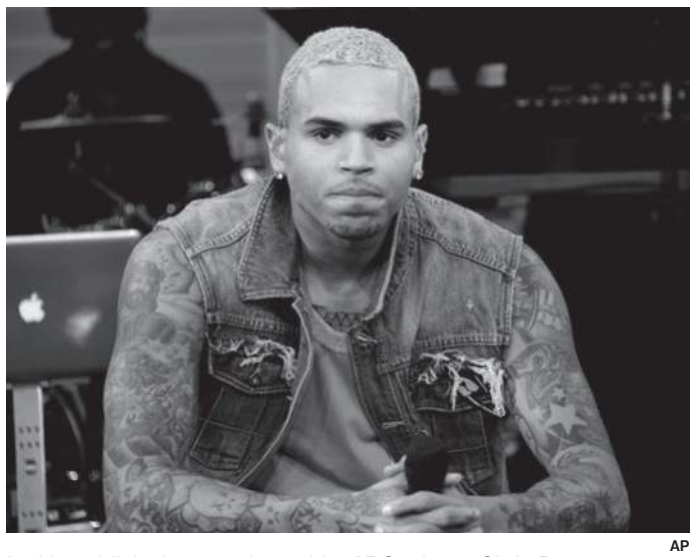
A clearly agitated Brown tried to deflect the line of questioning, saying he was past that and wanted to focus on his new CD.

"This album is what I want them to talk about and not what happened two years ago," he said.

Roberts laughed and thanked Brown for letting her discuss that matter with him, and after the interview, Brown performed.

But instead of performing another song for the online audience, as he was scheduled to do, he went to his dressing room and started smashing things, according to the person.

In a statement, ABC News said: "As always, we ask questions that are relevant and newsworthy, and that's what we did in this interview with Mr. Brown."



AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, singer Chris Brown appears on the morning program "Good Morning America," Tuesday, March 22, 2011 in New York.

Reps for Brown did not immediately return phone calls for comment. Brown is on probation for his assault on Rihanna.

Brown has been trying to rehabilitate his image since the attack, which occurred on the eve of the Grammys two years ago. After that, his once brilliant career was tarnished. His album "Graffiti," released several months after that, was a poor seller.

However, he's recently had success on the charts with the songs "Deuces," a No. 1 R&B hit last year, and "Look At Me Now" is now No. 12 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

He's been more accepted into the mainstream as well. Before his "GMA" appearance, he had appeared on NBC's "Saturday Night Live." A rep for ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" said Brown is still slated to appear on the show next week.

A judge last November commended Brown, a Virginia native, for working hard to complete his community service and for almost finishing his domestic violence counseling. He has since finished the counseling.

Last month, a judge, while praising Brown's progress, eased a restraining order that had prevented Brown from coming within 50 feet of Rihanna after Rihanna said she didn't object. The new order prevents him from being within 10 feet of Rihanna at an industry event.

Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

Brown—who was photographed outside "GMA" with his shirt off moments after the incident—tweeted his frustration shortly after the show: "All my fans!!! This album is for you and only you!!! I'm so tired of everyone else!! Honestly!! I love team breezy!!"

LITERARY BRIEFS

'Cold Mountain' author Frazier releasing new novel

NEW YORK (AP)—"Cold Mountain" novelist Charles Frazier is releasing a new book. The Random House Publishing Group said Tuesday that "Nightwoods" will be released in October. The novel takes place in rural North Carolina in the 1950s and tells of a young woman who cares for her murdered sister's twins. "Cold Mountain," Frazier's debut work about a Civil War soldier's return home, sold more than 2 million copies and won the National Book Award in 1997. Afterward, the North Carolina native made news by leaving his publisher, Grove/Atlantic, to accept an $8 million deal with Random House. His second novel, "Thirteen Moons," came out in 2006. Random House says it has sold about 500,000 copies. "Cold Mountain" was made into a 2003 movie starring Jude Law, Nicole Kidman and Renee Zellweger.

Winner of Yale playwright competition announced

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A legal assistant from Australia has won the 2011 Yale Drama Series award for emerging playwrights. Shannon Murdoch's work was selected from more than 870 submissions by Tony-winning playwright John Guare. Her play "New Light Shine" won the $10,000 prize and will be published by Yale University Press. A staged reading will be held Sept. 12 at Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, Conn. According to organizers, Murdoch's play deals with "four small-town lives linked through a violent crime and their hopeless attempts to erase the past and build new lives." The announcement was made Tuesday. This is Guare's first year judging the competition. Other playwrights who have acted as judges include David Hare and Edward Albee. Murdoch, who lives in Footscray, Victoria, says she feels "incredibly fortunate" to win.

Frankel tells her rules to live by in a new book

NEW YORK (AP)—When Bethenny Frankel first pitched her idea for a low-calorie, ready-to-drink bottled margarita to liquor companies, she got rejected, so she decided to make and distribute it herself. "Little old me, who knew nothing about the booze business, said, 'You know what? This is a good idea. I know it. I'm acting on it," she told The Associated Press. Now, more than 100,000 cases of the Skinnygirl Margarita ship annually, and Fortune Brands Inc. announced Monday that it bought the brand for an undisclosed amount. Frankel talks about her drive in her new book, "A Place of Yes," in which she presents 10 rules to live by in life. The rules help her "keep moving forward" and "break the cycle ... of inner noise that tries to hold me back," she wrote. Frankel place second on Martha Stewart's version of "The Apprentice" in 2005, then returned to reality television on Bravo's "The Real Housewives of New York City" in 2008.

Nev. candidate Sharron Angle to self-publish book

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Tea party favorite Sharron Angle is spending thousands of dollars to self-publish an autobiography about her life and values. An AuthorHouse spokesman told The Associated Press Tuesday that Angle contracted the book with the leading self-publishing company this month, just days before she announced her campaign for the U.S. House. Spokesman Kevin Gray says publishing packages can cost up to $15,000. Copies of the book would be printed by demand. As a self-publisher, Angle has control over the design and editing of the book. She is hoping for an April release. Angle, a Republican, lost a heated Senate campaign against Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in November. She announced Monday that she's seeking the 2012 GOP nomination for a northern Nevada congressional seat.

Death & Funeral Announcement

REMELDIL TEFEI BORJA

Better known as "Rem"

Date of Birth: March, 24, 1965
Date of Death: March 17,2011

This is to inform the families, relatives, and friends that the late Remeldil Tefei Borja had passed away on March 17, 2011 in Guam at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

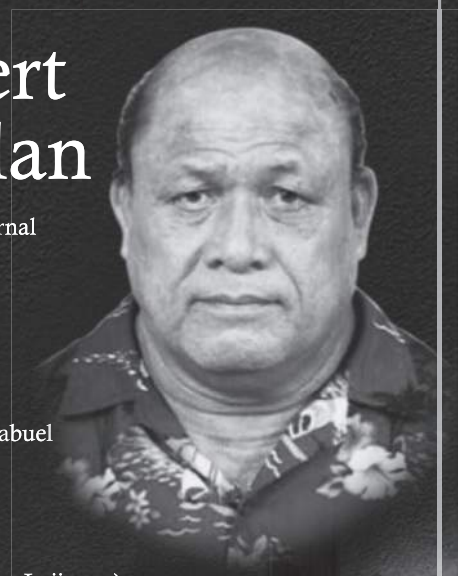
On Friday, March 25, 2011 Funeral Services will be held at the Guam Cemetery.

Thank you

The Family

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mariano Herbert Mangarero Sablan



Born on July 15, 1930 and was called to his eternal rest on March 17, 2010, 4:30pm at CHC

In his new life, he now joins his wife,
†Mariana Rasiang Sablan

His memories will live in the hearts of his:
Children:
Honora Sablan Tagabuel and Benusto M. Tagabuel
Esther Sablan Tilipao and Luis Tilipao
Mariano Rasiang Sablan and Janet Cabrera
Leonila Sablan Kaipat and †Vicente I. Kaipat

Grand Children:
Diana Camacho and Juan Camacho (Leiavilyn, Leijuana)
Benjamin S. Tagabuel and Antonette Teigeta (JP)
†Felix S. Tagabuel and Mona T. Tagabuel (Lakisha)
Nadia T. Camacho and Joseph Camacho, Jr.
Mariana S. Tagabuel
Elsie S. Tilipao and Juan T. Rebuenog (Alexi, Zoya, Jazel, Maya)
Jay S. Tilipao (Elijah, Jahren)
Alupiang Jonathan S. Tilipao
Jasmine S. Tilipao
Mario O. Sablan and Jen DLG (Nicole, Kayla, Max)
†Eugenia O. Sablan
Myron O. Sablan and Jackie Sablan (McKay, Mikaela, McClain and Mikacia)
Molly O. Sablan and Chris Sablan
Leroy O. Sablan and Matilde Nakamura (Leiko, James, Jailee and Kenji)
Eugene O. Sablan and Eula Matsumoto
Shawana O. Sablan
Shaquita O. Sablan
Syvia S. Kaipat and Pedro Ngotel (Kaylene and James)
Stacy S. Kaipat and EJ Taisakan (VJ, Danny and Kyomi)
Vincent S. Kaipat and Rita Cabrera (Vinita)
Keisha S. Kaipat
Keoni S. Kaipat

On Friday, March 25, 2011, at 7am, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Kristo Rai Church for viewing. The Mass for Christian Burial will be offered at 10am. Interment Service will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Jackson doc seeking records of Demerol treatments

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge said Tuesday he will review medical records from Michael Jackson's longtime dermatologist before deciding whether the documents should be turned over to defense attorneys seeking to show the singer was addicted to a powerful painkiller at the time of his death.

Murray

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor will review files from Dr. Arnold Klein that cover the final nine months of Jackson's life.

Klein is fighting the release of the files to attorneys for Dr. Conrad Murray, citing patient confidentiality rules. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of the pop star.

Attorneys for Murray say they need to review the files to see if the records support a defense theory that Jackson was suffering from withdrawal from the painkiller Demerol when he died unexpectedly on June 25, 2009.

The lawyers contend Klein frequently injected Jackson with Demerol and the singer became addicted to the treatments.

"Due to Dr. Klein's actions, Mr. Jackson became physiologically and psychologically dependent on Demerol," Murray's attorneys wrote in a motion filed Monday. "Dr. Murray's right to this information in the criminal case greatly outweighs any privilege or privacy rights asserted by Dr. Klein pertaining to the records of Mr. Jackson who is now deceased."

Defense attorney J. Michael Flanagan has said a potential defense expert witness contends Jackson was showing signs of Demerol withdrawal before his death, and that may have complicated his reactions to other medications.

Authorities have accused Murray of giving the singer a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol, which is normally administered in hospital settings. His attorneys have said he did not give the singer anything that should have killed him.

Klein's attorney Garo Ghazarian said during the hearing Tuesday that the defense hadn't shown any evidence that Jackson was addicted to Demerol or that any of Klein's treatments were improper.

Another injury rocks 'Spider-Man' musical

NEW YORK (AP)—Is this the curse of the Spider-Woman?

T.V. Carpio, who stepped in to replace another actress injured in Broadway's "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," has now herself been sidelined after an accident on stage.

Producers of the $65 million musical said Tuesday that Carpio was hurt March 16 during a battle scene with an actor. Details on her injury were not immediately available.

Carpio plays an evil spider woman called Arachne, one of the handful of large roles in the complicated, stunt-heavy production. She will be out of the show for the next two weeks and will be replaced by America Olivo.

Carpio was elevated from a smaller role when her predecessor, Natalie Mendoza, pulled out after she suffered a concussion in December when she was hit in the head offstage by rope.

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2011 photo, actress T.V. Carpio, who is playing Arachne in the musical "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark", poses for a picture in New York.

The 29-year-old actress had understudied several roles, including Arachne and Mary Jane, since joining the show in 2007 and was a natural choice when Mendoza left. Arachne had six songs and dominates the second act, appearing as a goddess of all spider powers who wants Mary Jane's boyfriend Peter Parker for herself.

The show, which features original songs by U2's Bono and The Edge, is the most expensive in Broadway history but it is also proving to be among the most troubled.

Producers earlier this month announced that Tony Award-winning director Julie Taymor would no longer direct the show, and a new creative team was brought in to change and polish the musical, which has also been plagued with a series of injuries to cast members and aerial stunt mishaps. Its opening has been delayed for a sixth time, to June 14.

Carpio's biggest moment until the Spider-Man musical was appearing as the cheerleader Prudence who sings a rendition of "I Want to Hold Your Hand" in "Across the Universe," a Taymor movie set to the music of The Beatles. She also appears in the current film "Limitless" with Bradley Cooper.

During an interview in February, Carpio insisted that she felt safe in the show—almost too safe. She said she was a trained trapeze artist who loves amusement park rides and squealed with delight at the memory of repeatedly plunging from the top of the Las Vegas Stratosphere.

"Here I have four strings attached to me at any given time. Each one of those cables I think can carry 9,000 pounds," she said. "So when people ask me am I scared, no."

When it opens—if it does, that is—"Spider-Man" will have set a record for becoming the first musical with more than 100 preview performances. For comparison, among musicals currently on Broadway, "Wicked" had 25 previews, "American Idiot" had 26 and "The Lion King" had 33. All benefited from out-of-town tryouts before coming to Broadway.

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NOW SHOWING

Paul
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Simon Pegg, Nick Frost
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Two British buddies (Shaun of the Dead/Hot Fuzz's Simon Pegg and Nick Frost) head out on the road in search of Area 51 after attending a comic convention, only to encounter a cute little alien named Paul along the way in this comedy from Working Title and Universal Pictures. Superbad's Greg Mottola directs from a script by Pegg and Frost.

Limitless
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
Thriller, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The Illusionist's Neil Burger helms this adaptation of Alan Glynn's novel detailing what happens when a man stumbles upon a one-of-a-kind smart pill. Hairspray's Leslie Dixon provides the screenplay for the Universal production.

Battle: Los Angeles
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A platoon of Marines take on an alien invasion throughout Los Angeles in this Original Films sci-fi action picture, headed by director Jonathan Liebesman (Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning) and producer Neal H. Moritz. The Dark Knight's Aaron Eckhart stars in the produciton.

Red Riding Hood
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Amanda Sayfried, Gary Oldman
Horror • Rated PG 13

Mars Needs Moms
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Seth Green, Joan Cusack
Science Fiction • Rated PG

Rango
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G

I Am Number Four
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Stern sues Sirius over bonus pay for subscribers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Howard Stern and his agent are suing Sirius XM Radio Inc. for failing to pay stock awards they say are due for helping it exceed subscriber growth targets on its way to becoming the dominant satellite radio service in the country.

The New York-based company, which just signed Stern to a second five-year contract, said it was "surprised and disappointed" at the suit and said it had lived up to the obligations of their previous deal.

In the suit filed Tuesday in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Stern's production company, One Twelve Inc., and his agent Don Buchwald said that Sirius made an initial bonus stock award after Stern started in January 2006 but failed to do so over the subsequent four years.

The suit claims that Stern helped Sirius exceed its subscriber targets by at least 2 million subscribers in each year of the contract, triggering a new stock award each time.

It also said Stern put Sirius in a position to complete its 2008 acquisition of XM Satellite Radio Inc., which had also courted Stern years earlier.

Sirius had around 230,000 subscribers to XM's 1.3 million at the end of 2003. As of the end of December, the combined company had 20.2 million.

Buchwald and Stern were told last year by Sirius XM's general counsel, Richard Basch, that later bonus stock awards were not granted because the company did not include XM's subscriber base toward the total number of Sirius subscribers.

"When Sirius needed Stern, it promised him a share in any success that the company achieved," the suit said. "But now that Sirius has conquered its chief competitor and acquired more than 20 million subscribers, it has reneged on its commitment to Stern, unilaterally deciding that it has paid him enough."

The suit follows a public feud last year that preceded the end of his $500 million, five-year contract.

The bickering appeared to end when Stern, 57, announced on his weekday morning show in December that he had agreed to a new deal running through 2015, although terms were not disclosed.

Lindsay Lohan's dad arrested in West Hollywood

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (AP)—Authorities in Los Angeles say Lindsay Lohan's father has been arrested over allegations he held his girlfriend against her will and prevented her from calling police.

Sheriff's investigators say deputies were dispatched on a domestic violence call at 9 p.m. Monday to Michael Lohan's apartment.

A news release says the 51-year-old was booked for investigation of preventing a report of victimization, false imprisonment and infliction of corporal injury on a cohabitant, all felonies. Bail is set at $200,000.

Lohan

Authorities say the girlfriend refused treatment for minor injuries, but Michael Lohan was taken to a hospital after booking for a medical condition unrelated to the arrest.

He has a history of arrests in New York over allegations of harassment from ex-girlfriends.

The "Mean Girls" actress reportedly is estranged from her father.

Ja Rule pleads guilty to $3M tax evasion in NJ

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Rapper and actor Ja Rule admitted Tuesday that he failed to pay taxes on more than $3 million in income, and he faces up to three years in prison.

The platinum-selling rapper, whose given name is Jeffrey Atkins, earned the money between 2004 and 2006 while he lived in Saddle River, an upscale community in northern New Jersey.

If the plea conditions are met, the government will dismiss two counts against him for unpaid taxes on about $1 million he earned in 2007 and 2008.

Atkins is scheduled to be sentenced June 13 on the three tax evasion charges. He faces up to one year in prison and $100,000 in fines on each count.

Five days before that, he is scheduled to report to prison in New York to serve a two-year sentence after pleading guilty in December to attempted criminal possession of a weapon.

Ja Rule

Atkins' attorney, Stacy Richman, is expected to file to have the tax evasion sentence served concurrently with the weapons sentence.

Atkins appeared in U.S. District Court in Newark dressed in a brown leather jacket, pullover and blue jeans. He answered a series of questions from U.S. Magistrate Patty Shwartz and Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Mack about his income from 2004 to 2008, which reached $1.59 million in 2005 and gradually fell to $490,000 in 2008.

The government estimated the unpaid taxes from those years totaled more than $1.1 million.

According to a court filing by the U.S. Attorney's office, Atkins earned the money from music royalties paid to ASJA Inc. and live performance-related income paid to Rule Tours Inc. Atkins was the sole shareholder of both companies, the government alleged.

Atkins didn't comment outside the courtroom. Asked how he felt about the charges as he stepped into a waiting car he said, "I feel great."

Richman noted that her client surrendered voluntarily and will pay the delinquent taxes.

"He's been working on addressing these issues for some time, and he's taking full responsibility," she said.

The weapons charge stems from a traffic stop after a July 2007 concert at New York's Beacon Theater. Police say they found a loaded gun in a rear door of his luxury sports car.

The rapper was nominated for a 2002 best rap album Grammy Award for "Pain is Love." His movie credits include 2001's "The Fast and the Furious" and 2003's "Scary Movie 3."

Ivanka Trump stalking suspect faces new NY charges

NEW YORK (AP)—A self-described celebrity stalker kept trying to contact Ivanka Trump and her relatives even as he faced charges of harassing her and a court order to stay away, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Trump

Justin Massler pleaded not guilty to upgraded charges. The Reno, Nev.-based Massler—who had his name legally changed to Cloud Starchaser and gave his address as "a volcano in Hawaii," prosecutors said—is being held without bail.

Massler, 28, was initially arrested last year. Prosecutors say he unleashed a slate of emails and tweets about his fixation with the NBC "Celebrity Apprentice" co-host, whose parents are Donald and Ivana Trump.

"I should stop bothering her, but I like her," Massler sighed to a detective on a plane ride bringing him to New York after his arrest last year, according to a court document released Tuesday. In tweets directed at Ivanka Trump, Massler said his "dream in life" was to marry her, according to the court complaint. At times, his remarks turned more bizarre and ominous, the document said: He threatened to commit suicide in her Manhattan jewelry store and said he wanted to "talk some sense into" her husband, Jared Kushner, and "commandeer" the newspaper that Kushner publishes, The New York Observer.

Massler also has said he'd die before being caught and "would go down in a hail of gunfire," assistant district attorney Lucrece Francois told a judge Tuesday.

Massler's lawyer, George Vomvolakis, has said the messages didn't amount to crimes. Massler, who has spent time in a mental hospital, never came close to Trump and didn't intend to follow through on his comments, the lawyer said.

"He's got a very eccentric sense of humor," Vomvolakis said last year. He didn't immediately return a call Tuesday evening.

Massler was released last year on $10,000 bond and ordered not to contact Trump and some of her relatives. An indictment says Massler nonetheless kept trying to communicate with Trump, Kushner and others close to her in recent months.

Massler skipped some of his court dates and was arrested recently in Los Angeles.

Denzel Washington to give Penn commencement speech

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two-time Oscar winner Denzel Washington has been selected to deliver the commencement speech at the University of Pennsylvania.

Washington

College officials announced Tuesday that Washington will address about 5,000 graduates and receive an honorary degree at the May 16 ceremony.

Washington's son Malcolm is a sophomore at the Ivy League school in Philadelphia.

Penn President Amy Gutmann says the 56-year-old star of "Malcolm X," "Glory" and "Philadelphia" has "used his tremendous talent as an actor to bring the most significant social and historical issues into the limelight." She also praised Washington for his work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Author Joyce Carol Oates and New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof are among several others also slated to receive honorary degrees at the ceremony.

Elton John, Helen Mirren set to host 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's "Saturday Night Live" has lined up Elton John and Helen Mirren for hosting duties on back-to-back shows in April.

John

The network announced Tuesday that John will pull double duty on April 2. He'll host and share the stage with fellow musical guest Leon Russell. John will debut as host. It's his first return to the show in nearly three decades.

On April 9, the Oscar-winning Mirren will make her "SNL" debut, with musical guest the Foo Fighters.

"Saturday Night Live" airs on Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. Eastern time.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Pawn Stars' reality show co-star arrested

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP)—"Pawn Stars" reality TV show co-star Corey "Big Hoss" Harrison has been arrested after a barroom run-in at a California mountain resort. San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Arden Wiltshire says the 27-year-old Las Vegas man shoved a deputy and security guard late Sunday at Murray's Saloon and Eatery in Big Bear Lake about 80 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Harrison was booked into the Big Bear Lake jail for investigation of battery and resisting arrest after the incident. Wiltshire says Harrison was held for a couple of hours to let him sober up. He was cited and released. The San Bernardino County Sun says Harrison and another customer got into an argument, and the deputy and guard were attacked while investigating the dispute.

Stars gather for launch of animated movie 'Rio'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilian director Carlos Saldanha is launching his new animated 3-D movie "Rio" featuring the voices of Anne Hathaway and Jesse Eisenberg. The Brazilian-based movie tells the story of Blu, a rare blue male macaw from Minnesota who travels to Rio de Janeiro after his owners learn that a female blue macaw has been discovered there. Jesse Eisenberg is the voice behind Blu and Hathaway is the voice behind the female macaw, Jewel. Together, Blu and Jewel escape animal traffickers, fight with monkeys, and share other adventures as Blu learns to fly amid samba beats, sunny beaches and sweeping views of the city's Christ statue. Saldanha launched the movie Tuesday.

1st national spelling bee winner Neuhauser dies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Frank Neuhauser, who in 1925 won the first U.S. national spelling bee with the word "gladiolus," has died. He was 97. Neuhauser was a patent lawyer who lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. He died March 11 in his home, Francis J. Collins Funeral Home has verified. He was 11 years old when he won the championship. His prizes included $500 in gold and a trip to the White House to meet President Calvin Coolidge. The contest, now called the Scripps National Spelling Bee, has become quite popular and portions of it are televised. Neuhauser had attended some of the national bees over the years. That included 2008, when he said the contest was a lot easier during his youth. He said he'd never make it now.

Social networks put private behavior on public display

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Heartbroken Teacher in Oakland, Calif." (Jan. 14) did absolutely nothing wrong! He wrote a letter of recommendation based on his knowledge and impression of one of his students. That was all he could and should have done. He wasn't obligated to do a background check or any kind of research. That is for the future employer to do if he/she chooses.

I also teach, and would have done exactly the same as he did. It is shocking and sad to discover that one's impression of a student was partially incorrect. Keeping secrets about past wrongdoings is nothing new. But social networking sites make the evidence of such behavior more accessible. This is an issue for our society to address.

HELEN IN LOMPOC, CALIF.

DEAR HELEN: I agree. And only time will tell how it will be resolved. That letter, from a teacher shocked to learn a respected student had posted inappropriate stories about herself online, generated tons of responses from both here and abroad. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old education student. I don't have a social networking site, nor do I have any desire to create one. I don't understand the importance of posting pictures and personal information on the Internet for all to see. My father, a computer programmer, taught me that once something is posted on the Internet, it's there forever, regardless of whether it is deleted or not.

When I ask classmates why they use a social networking site, the most common answer is, "To stay in touch with family and friends." The last time I checked, the telephone was used for that reason.

KIM IN ORADELL, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: I am tired of living in a world that revolves around social networking sites. As a 20-something, I have friends who don't think twice about what they post. They'll tell the world anything—from drug use, sex stories, their latest vandalism to their disgusting underage drunken escapades. They also include semi-nude photos of themselves because they think it's cute. I truly am ...

ASHAMED OF MY GENERATION, RED OAK, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: As teachers, we never completely see the character of our students. I interact with them outside of the classroom, but only at lunch and in student groups. No matter how friendly I become with my students, I am always their teacher, so I can never fully know who they are, and I never assume that I do.

When I write a recommendation, I can only comment on the person I was able to observe as their teacher (or rarely, mentor). My recommendation letters often mention my boundaries of perception, and I never go beyond that. Teachers shouldn't fear the repercussions of their comments if they honestly state what they observed.

CHRISTENSEN IN DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA

DEAR ABBY: Employers managed for centuries without being able to learn a person's life story at the click of a button. There's a reason it's called "social networking." If we wanted our employers there, we'd invite them. Anyone who snoops uninvited is invading our privacy. My employer pays me for the time I am at work. The rest of the time, I should be free to do as I please.

CHRISTOPHER IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, we had a different definition of "friend." A friend was a flesh-and-blood person with whom one visited face-to-face, not some image on an electronic screen. Before I'm branded an old fogy, let me say I realize social networking sites have advantages and disadvantages.

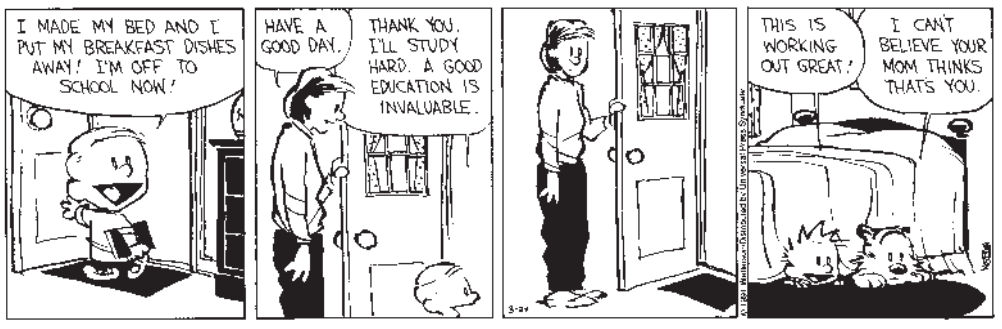
In my youth—and occasionally even now—when I get together with friends, discretion is sometimes thrown to the wind. But if I decide to put the proverbial lamp shade on my head, it's in the company of a chosen few. Why do the youth of today pride themselves in exposing their indiscretions? Do they really need a record of all the times they acted like a jackass?

RATIONAL IN JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I MADE MY BED AND I PUT MY BREAKFAST DISHES AWAY! I'M OFF TO SCHOOL NOW!
HAVE A GOOD DAY.
THANK YOU. I'LL STUDY HARD. A GOOD EDUCATION IS INVALUABLE.
THIS IS WORKING OUT GREAT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR MOM THINKS THAT'S YOU.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THANKS, PAT. YOU WON'T REGRET IT.
YES! A NEW CLIENT! I NEED TO CELEBRATE.
HONEY, BRING ME THE KAZOO AND MY TOP HAT!
KAZOO AND TOP HAT? WOOO! I LOVE NEW CLIENTS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

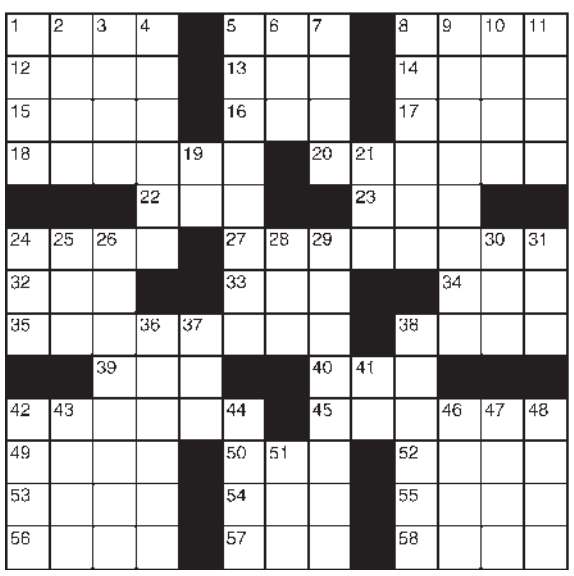
ACROSS
1 Frisbee, e.g.
5 Dance syllable
8 Somewhere out there
12 Busy with
13 "— Town"
14 Acrimony
15 Cicatrix
16 Ran into
17 "Yeah, right!"
18 Victorian vehicle
20 America's Cup entries
22 — out a living
23 18-Across, e.g.
24 Cardholder's woe
27 Drought-stricken region
32 In olden times
33 Category
34 Court
35 Gridiron event
38 Bend
39 Actor Chaney
40 Writer Buscaglia
42 Confine
45 Sign up
49 Invitation abbr.
50 Sternward
52 Lavish affection (on)
53 Sheltered
54 Bill and —
55 Rams' mates
56 Information
57 Barbie's companion
58 Engrossed

DOWN
1 Plate
2 Erstwhile Peruvian
3 Ollie's partner
4 Old-style foundation
5 — dell'arte
6 Shade
7 Bohemian
8 1981 Genesis album
9 No-privacy situation
10 Settled down
11 "Zebras"
19 Fine
21 Performance
24 Slight touch
25 "I" strain?
26 Impress
28 Einstein's birthplace
29 Framework
30 Travail
31 Bagel topper
36 Cut off
37 Wildebeest
38 Dossier
41 Type measure
42 Animal stomach
43 Scandinavian city
44 Prepare to travel
46 "The Music Man" locale
47 Dance lesson
48 Criterion
51 Adversary

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	I	S	■	S	P	A	■	S	E	T	H
B	A	I	H	■	E	H	G	■	P	Y	R	E
B	U	L	L	S	E	Y	E	■	L	E	E	R
A	L	L	O	T	■	■	S	P	I	C	E	S
■	■	■	C	A	T	S	■	E	T	A	■	■
J	A	C	K	■	R	A	Y	S	■	N	O	D
A	G	A	■	M	E	I	O	■	D	A	Y	■
Y	O	N	■	O	K	A	Y	■	B	Y	T	F
■	■	D	A	S	■	N	O	E	L	■	■	■
S	C	Y	T	H	E	■	■	G	A	L	A	S
E	L	B	A	■	B	A	R	G	R	A	P	H
G	O	A	L	■	B	R	A	■	E	R	I	E
O	G	R	E	■	S	E	W	■	S	K	E	D

Yesterday's answer 2-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 35; Alyson Hannigan, 37; Jim Parsons, 38; Louie Anderson, 58

Happy Birthday: You are in the driver's seat, so be prepared to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. A financial boost will enable you to make changes to your life, if you are smart in the way you handle your cash. Check the fine print of any contract you intend to sign. Change will bring you greater chances at prosperity. Your numbers are 5, 13, 23, 26, 33, 39, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can make a fabulous money deal. Negotiations will go sweetly and much can be accomplished that will set you up for the future. A major move appears to be underway that will rejuvenate you emotionally, mentally and financially. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You need to get everything sorted out with institutions and government agencies first, so that you will have clear sailing when you make your next move. Don't let loved ones have too much information regarding your financial position. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The more involved you get in a group or organization that allows you to be creative, innovative and dynamic, the easier it will be to progress in other areas of your life. The confidence you get from excelling while helping others will lead to your own advancement. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Concentrate on what you can do to make life better. Strive for self-perfection. Don't be upset by what someone else does or says. Finish what's being asked of you and take on more responsibilities. The proof will be in what's done, not what's said. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stand tall and do your best. The rewards for your actions will be superb and the recognition you receive from your peers and superiors will lead to an offer you cannot refuse. Don't show any anger or you will undo what you've worked so hard to achieve. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Slow down and evaluate what you have done and what's left to do. Tally up what you've spent and what's required of you to finish what you've started. There is a lot riding on how you handle both money and emotional matters. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your personal relationship will be strengthened by what you are currently experiencing with regard to home and family. Greater opportunities and the chance to make a valuable move are apparent. Expect the unexpected. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let trivial matters sidetrack you. Put your energy into what counts and what and who can help you get ahead. Explain your intentions and whoever comes on board freely will be the only testament you require. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Look at the big picture and the little aggravations that crop up will not bog you down. You will have the right idea and course of action in mind, so play out your strategy and you will find satisfaction and progress along the way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There is likely to be a scuffle or backlash if you tread into someone's territory. Overreacting will be your downfall, resulting in mishaps and minor accidents. Think before you act. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): By taking a position someone offers you, you can alter your future financially. It's a new day and time for a new beginning. The knowledge and experience you pick up can catapult you into something even bigger. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may feel anxious but that's no reason to let your emotions take over. Be as reserved as possible, especially when dealing with superiors or anyone able to alter your future. Welcome changes exuberantly. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, engaging and ready to take on the world. You are generous and fun to be with.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8	9		1					5
						4		1
	3		2		5			
		5		3		1		4
3		9		4		7		
			6		8		1	
1		2						
6					1		8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	3	7	2	8	1	4	6
1	8	7	3	4	6	9	5	2
4	2	6	9	5	1	7	8	3
3	9	2	5	1	7	8	6	4
6	7	8	4	3	9	5	2	1
5	1	4	6	8	2	3	7	9
2	6	1	8	7	3	4	9	5
8	3	5	2	9	4	6	1	7
7	4	9	1	6	5	2	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KEY WEST, FLA. **Solution: 7 letters**

Y	R	P	F	M	Y	A	D	I	V	E	E	O	A	T
R	A	O	I	R	L	A	G	O	E	T	F	(Y)	U	E
O	S	W	O	E	A	T	S	B	I	S	(O)	A	D	S
L	S	M	G	S	R	H	S	H	S	(U)	R	C	U	N
L	R	N	A	N	E	G	W	A	(B)	P	T	U	B	U
A	A	O	H	T	I	V	Y	A	L	Y	O	O	O	S
M	O	S	C	S	H	M	E	R	T	L	N	H	N	T
A	F	K	O	H	M	E	E	L	R	E	A	O	S	O
R	A	C	T	O	O	S	R	H	T	U	R	B	L	C
G	T	A	A	R	N	E	M	B	N	K	C	E	A	K
A	H	J	N	E	L	A	G	O	E	E	O	A	A	E
R	O	O	D	G	R	O	T	L	A	Y	R	C	R	D
E	M	R	A	I	L	A	V	U	D	S	A	H	K	G
T	A	L	N	F	E	M	A	R	T	E	L	L	O	E
G	F	A	Y	S	E	S	U	O	H	T	H	G	I	L

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Angela, Armory, Ashby, Atocha, Audubon, Ballast, Beach, Bone, Buoy, Cayo, Coral, Curry, Dive, Duval, Eaton, Fathom, Flagler, Fort, Gardens, Golf, Hemingway, Jackson, Kedge, Keys, Kraals, Lighthouses, Mallory, Margaret, Marina, Martello, Monroe, Pier, Roosevelt, Shops, Shore, Sigsbee, Smather, Snorkel, Stock, Sunset, Swim, Tours, Water, Wharf, White

Yesterday's Answer: Milkshake

SALE: The books of "Wonderwords" for kids" are free to you (or for the next 6 months, whichever comes first). Wonderwords, Fore Inches Time, the books sell for US $3 each in U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick. For US $5 postage for the first book order, $1.95 for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-591-6183.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT/LEASE

House for rent/lease. As Lito, 4BR, 2 1/2 bth, unfurnished. For more info. pls. call 788-7109 after 5pm

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

WHATZIT Solution:
The start of something big

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0014**
vs.	
JOAQUIN S. REYES and MAGDALENA B. SALAS, Defendants.	**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 1, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 011 G 692, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011G14, the original of which was recorded 03 DEC 93 as Document No. 93-4182 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on April 15, 2011, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, March 22, 2011.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff
BANK OF HAWAII

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-025 | Opening Date: Tuesday, 03/22/11 | **Revised Closing Date: Friday, 03/25/11**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: Researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare accounts for resolution. Analyzes information to validate billings. Identifies and processes necessary billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, Saipan.

SALARY: $24,000.00 to $28,000.00 per annum; Un-graded, Un-classified.

POSITIONS: Two.

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NMHC IFB 2011-003

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A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **March 25, 2011,** at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, Songsong Village, Tinian.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

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NMHC RFP 2011-002

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A **mandatory pre-proposal conference** will be held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Friday, March 25, 2011,** at the NMHC Tinian Field Office in San Jose, Tinian.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

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Lakers outlast Suns in triple OT, 139-137

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored a season-high 42 points, Ron Artest got five of his 18 points in the final 2 minutes of the third overtime, and the Los Angeles Lakers outlasted the Phoenix Suns for a 139-137 victory Tuesday night.

Lamar Odom had a season-high 29 points and 16 rebounds in the Lakers' 13th win in 14 games since the All-Star break. Pau Gasol added 24 points, including two tying free throws with 2.5 seconds left in the second overtime of an enormously entertaining rematch of last season's Western Conference finals.

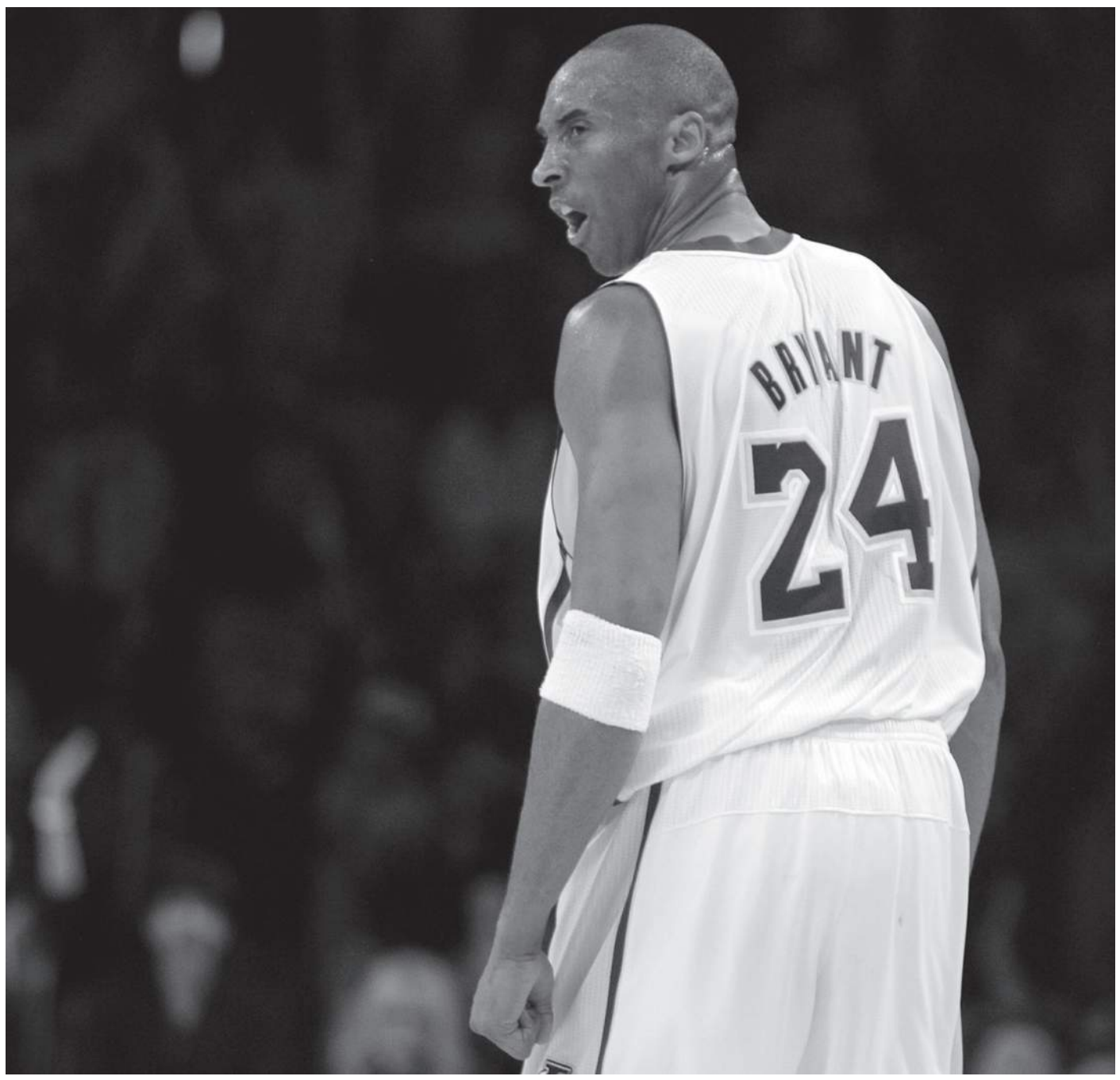
Channing Frye scored a career-high 32 points and hit three tying free throws with 1.1 seconds left to force double overtime for Phoenix, and Steve Nash had 19 points and 20 assists in the Suns' fifth loss in seven games.

Both teams traded improbable last-second heroics in what turned into just the fourth triple-overtime game for the Lakers since they moved to Los Angeles.

Phoenix rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second half and another nine-point hole in the final 3 minutes of regulation, forcing OT on Grant Hill's 3-pointer with 31 seconds left. Bryant and Vince Carter both missed last-second shots.

Frye then hit three free throws to even the first overtime, and he hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 52 seconds left in the second OT. Gasol coolly replied with two tying free throws for Los Angeles, and Bryant prevented Hill from taking a last-second shot.

Bryant then hit a 3-pointer with 2:10 left in the third overtime before Artest made a steal and dunked—a rarity for the ground-bound defensive specialist—to put the Lakers up 135-132. Artest then made a fallaway jumper, and Carter missed a jumper, allowing Bryant to finish it off with a floating 11-footer with 14 seconds left.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant reacts after making a basket against the Phoenix Suns in triple overtime of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, March 22, 2011.

Odom was outstanding while filling in for suspended center Andrew Bynum in the Lakers' fifth straight victory. But Bryant and Artest came up with the big late baskets in the Lakers' third win over Phoenix in four meetings this season.

The stakes were higher for the 10th-place Suns, who are scrapping to return the playoffs. The Lakers, sitting in second place in the West, already clinched their woeful division Sunday, taking a 14-game lead over the Suns.

Two days after playing a deliberate game in an 84-80 win over Portland, the Lakers ratcheted up their tempo to the Suns' preferred speed.

The Lakers led 89-68 with 4:45 left in the third quarter, but the Suns' erratic shooting suddenly locked in. Aaron Brooks' 3-pointer cut the lead to 97-96 with 9:18 to play, completing a 28-8 run that began with three 3-pointers by Nash.

After Phoenix tied it on Mickael Pietrus' three free throws with 6:53 left, the Lakers scored the next nine points before Phoenix's 11-2 run to end regulation, capped by 3-pointers from Frye and Hill.

Bryant appeared to be moving fluidly on his sprained ankle after coach Phil Jackson confirmed it was "much better" than last week. Bryant had 26 points through three quarters, scoring easily against Phoenix's inconsistent defense.

The Lakers played their second straight game without Bynum, suspended for a flagrant foul on Minnesota's Michael Beasley last week. His shot-blocking inside presence was minimally important against the Suns, who play almost entirely on the perimeter.

Bryant and Odom led a blistering 20-7 run after halftime, staking the Lakers to their 21-point lead on Bryant's 3-pointer midway through the third quarter. Instead of folding, the Suns roared back with Nash's 3-pointers, and Frye's first 3-pointer in seven tries trimmed the lead to 95-86 heading to the fourth.

Bulls 114, Hawks 81

At Atlanta, the Chicago Bulls took over the lead in the NBA's Eastern Conference by thrashing the Atlanta Hawks, making it 10 wins from 11 games.

Derrick Rose had 30 points and 10 assists for Chicago, who was able to rest its starters in the final quarter after setting season highs with 41 points in the second quarter and 72 points in the first half. Luol Deng finished with 27 points.

The Hawks were denied an opportunity to clinch a playoff spot and absorbed their first home loss to Chicago in four years.

Jeff Teague scored 17 of his 20 points in the fourth for Atlanta, which trailed 98-60 after three and also decided to rest its starters in the final period.

Trail Blazers 111, Wizards 76

At Portland, Gerald Wallace scored 28 points to lead Portland to an easy win over Washington.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points before sitting for the fourth quarter for the Trail Blazers, who are jockeying for playoff position in the Western Conference as the season winds to a close. Portland moved within a game of Denver for the sixth spot, and a game up on seventh-place New Orleans.

Jordan Crawford had 12 points for the Wizards, who dropped their seventh straight on the road to fall to just 1-32 away from home.

Portland led by as many as 38 points, and the starting lineup scored all but 20 of the team's points.

Duncan's recovery still unknown after ankle sprain

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan is on crutches and the San Antonio Spurs don't know when he'll be back.

Duncan passed an MRI test Tuesday with no signs of structural damage in his sprained left ankle. The Spurs won't know how long the 34-year-old might be out until later this week, but Duncan will miss at least the next three games as the NBA's winningest team tries to clinch the West's No. 1 seed.

"It structurally looks good," general manager R.C. Buford said Tuesday. "We will have a better idea of what the timeline is in the next 48 hours."

Duncan sprained the ankle Monday night in a win over Golden State. Four minutes had barely passed in the game when Duncan, after making a short jumper, landed awkwardly on his left foot and collapsed beneath the basket.

The two-time MVP lay clutching the foot for more than a minute in the scariest moment for the Spurs all season. San Antonio has reclaimed its place atop the NBA behind the durability of Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili after injuries derailed the four-time champions the last few years.

Duncan will not travel with the Spurs on a three-game road trip that begins Wednesday in Denver. The Spurs (57-13) have a seven-game lead over the Los Angeles Lakers for the top seed in the West with 12 games remaining.

Only one of San Antonio's remaining dozen opponents—Sacramento—are out of the playoff chase.

Buford said Duncan's ankle is between a grade 1 and 2 sprain. He said team doctors are waiting for the swelling to subside to see how the ankle responds to early treatment.

"There's a lot of frustration," Buford said. "But I think he's pretty tough and you guys saw him on the court."

Buford and the rest of San Antonio's front office left their box at the AT&T Center and went to the locker room after Duncan limped off the court Monday night, steadying himself with the help of trainers.

Duncan is averaging career lows (13.3 points, 9 rebounds) and the Spurs no longer revolve their offense around the two-time MVP. But the Spurs are quick to say Duncan is still what makes them tick.

After stumbling into the playoffs as the No. 7 seed a year ago, San Antonio is on pace to surpass its franchise-record 63 wins set in 2005-06. Observers have chalked up the surprise resurgence on everything from pushing a faster tempo to a deeper bench.

But Spurs coach Gregg Popovich has said it just boils down to health. Ginobili missed the 2009 postseason with a bad right ankle. Last season, the Spurs upset Dallas in the first round, but withered against Phoenix in the semifinals as Duncan wore down and Parker recovered from a broken hand.

The Spurs likely had the past in mind when Duncan—who turns 35 in April—earned his first night off all season Saturday against Charlotte. Before that, Duncan had been the only Spurs player to start the first 68 games.

Popovich's reason for resting Duncan was simple: he didn't want him getting hurt.

"That was the first thing going through my head: Could we lose a lot games and give up the first spot (in the West)?" Spurs forward Antonio McDyess said. "With Tim down, that's a big loss."

If there's an upside to the injury, it's that rookie Tiago Splitter may use this opportunity to build experience and stamina for the playoffs. Splitter was the marquee signing for the Spurs last summer: a 7-footer and the reigning MVP of the Spanish League, and at 26 years old, primed to immediately contribute.

It hasn't worked out that way. Splitter injured his calf in training camp and has since struggled to find a consistent place in the rotation. He had 10 points and 14 rebounds, his first NBA double-double, when Duncan went down Monday but admits he was winded by the end.

Splitter isn't a scorer like Duncan. The Spurs could certainly use his size in the postseason, particularly if they wind up facing the Lakers and their big front line.

"I've been working for this all season. I'm ready," Splitter said. "Of course I'm no Tim Duncan. I'm the new guy here who wants to help the team."

Taylor gets probation; teen says he deserved jail

NEW CITY, N.Y. (AP)—The teenage girl at the center of the sex-crimes case against football great Lawrence Taylor made a surprise appearance at his sentencing Tuesday, eager to declare that he should be behind bars.

She was denied the chance to speak in court, and Taylor was sentenced to six years' probation, as agreed when he pleaded guilty in January to sexual misconduct and patronizing an underage prostitute.

The former New York Giants linebacker must register as a sex offender, but a hearing on exactly how that will affect him was postponed to April 12.

The girl arrived with celebrity lawyer Gloria Allred, who described her as "a sex-trafficking victim." The girl, now 17, has been identified in court and by Allred only by the initials C.F.

Allred stood beside the girl at a news conference but later refused to reveal her name. She would not say whether the girl plans a lawsuit against Taylor but said, "We look forward to representing her as she continues her fight for justice."

She said Taylor "should be in the hall of shame, not the Hall of Fame."

The girl was 16—under the age of consent—when she met Taylor last May.

Speaking outside the Rockland County Courthouse, she denied she was a prostitute and said another man, whom she called Rasheed, forced her to go into Taylor's Montebello hotel room by punching her in the face.

She said Taylor should have been able to tell she had been beaten and that she was underage.

"I believe Mr. Taylor could see my face and how young I was," she said. "I did what he told me to do because I was afraid what would happen if I didn't."

She added, her voice breaking, "I am upset that he will not go to jail for what he did to me."

AP

Former football star Lawrence Taylor, center, leaves Rockland County Courthouse in New City, N.Y., Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The 52-year-old ex-linebacker pleaded guilty in January to sexual misconduct and patronizing a 16-year-old prostitute.

The other man has been identified in a separate federal prosecution in Manhattan as Rasheed Davis, who is accused of acting as the girl's pimp and who allegedly assaulted her and brought her to Taylor's room at the Holiday Inn. Prosecutors have credited Taylor with helping them in that case.

Taylor said when he pleaded guilty that the girl told him she was 19. His attorney, Arthur Aidala, said Tuesday that Taylor "did not intend to patronize a prostitute who was under legal age."

He apologized on Taylor's behalf to Taylor's wife, family and fans.

Aidala criticized Allred for exposing the girl to the public eye, saying, "This young woman is being victimized once again."

The girl had hoped to read her statement in court, but Taylor's lawyer objected and state Supreme Court Justice William Kelly said victims are entitled to speak only at felony sentencings. Taylor's crimes were misdemeanors.

Taylor was arrested after the girl's uncle contacted New York City police. The ex-athlete was originally charged with third-degree rape.

When he pleaded guilty to the lesser charges, Taylor admitting having intercourse with the girl, who turned out to be a Bronx runaway. He said he paid her $300.

Taylor led the Giants to Super Bowl titles in 1987 and 1991. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team.

In 2009, he competed in ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." He had also been a spokesman for the weight-loss company NutriSystem, but he was dropped after his arrest.

After the hearing in April, the judge will decide whether to classify Taylor as a Level 1, 2 or 3 sex offender—low, medium or high risk. It appeared in court that Aidala will argue for Level 1 while prosecutors are suggesting Level 2.

John Caher, spokesman for the state Criminal Justice Services Division, said Level 1 offenders aren't posted on a public website, but anyone who calls the division can find out if a person is a sex offender.

All sex offenders have to report their addresses annually and report changes within 10 days.

Aidala persuaded the judge to modify some of the probation restrictions generally imposed on sex offenders. For example, the judge said Taylor would be allowed to bring his young son to school or to a park. He also agreed to a 1 a.m. curfew for Taylor instead of 11 p.m.

In addition, Taylor will be permitted to serve his probation in Broward County, Fla., where he lives.

Kelly offered Taylor a chance to speak in court before the sentencing but Taylor declined, saying, "I'm fine, judge."

Goodell: NFL's CBA offer might not stay on table

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Owners haven't talked about using replacement players if the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987 stretches on, Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday, and the league might not keep its last contract offer on the table if bargaining doesn't resume soon.

"We have not had any discussions or consideration of replacement players," Goodell said at a news conference closing the annual owners meetings. "It hasn't been discussed, it hasn't been considered, and it's not in our plans."

He also said the Miami Dolphins and four other teams have been fined or been told the NFL is investigating them for violating offseason rules prohibiting contact with players. Goodell was asked specifically about the Dolphins; he did not reveal other teams involved.

NFL general counsel Jeff Pash said the violations aren't related to the league's lockout of players, which began March 12, hours after negotiations with the players broke off, and the union dissolved. Even during normal offseasons, from the end of one season until around March 15, NFL rules bar teams from holding organized workouts, practice or meetings, and don't allow position coaches to supervise players.

"It's a 'go home and relax' period," Pash said.

Since the lockout began, no contact between the league's 32 clubs and players has been allowed. Players don't get paid and can't negotiate new contracts; they aren't allowed to use team facilities.

Goodell said he hasn't spoken to NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith since March 11, when talks ended after 16 days of federal mediation.

Owners made a proposal that day that included an increase in their 2011 salary cap offer from $131 million to $141 million; the players had been seeking a $151 million cap for that year, plus a chance to earn a percentage of any higher-than-projected revenues above a certain threshold.

"Every day that goes by," Goodell said, "makes it harder and harder to keep the elements in that proposal."

Six days after that proposal was made, Goodell outlined some of the specifics in an e-mail sent to all active players.

Some players complained about Goodell's letter, saying it was meant to divide them. They also objected to the letter's suggestion that players push their "union to return to the bargaining table" - the NFLPA renounced its status as a union and says it is now a trade association. That, in turn, permitted players to sue the league in federal court under antitrust laws. A hearing is scheduled for April 6.

Asked Tuesday why he sent that letter, Goodell replied: "What the ownership wanted to make sure is that the players knew what their leadership had walked away from in the mediation process. So we sent that directly to the players. As you know, they're claiming not to be a union, but we think it was important to send that so the players understood what the owners had offered."

The NFL hasn't lost games to a work stoppage since 1987, when a strike shortened the season and some games included nonunion replacement players.

Goodell said owners want to have a complete 2011 season, and repeated his hope that negotiations will resume—perhaps before the draft begins April 28.

The "primary focus" of the two days of meetings in New Orleans, Goodell said, was "our labor dispute and our planning and preparation on that."

"We are certainly planning on having a full season," he said. "That's our objective, and we're going to work as hard as we can to make that become a reality."

Kickoffs moved to 35, touchbacks stay at 20

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The NFL will move kickoffs up 5 yards to the 35-yard line, keep touchbacks coming out to the 20 and allow the number of players in a blocking wedge to remain at two.

Kick coverage players now will be limited to lining up 5 yards or fewer from the spot of the kickoff.

Team owners also voted Tuesday to make all scoring plays reviewable by the replay official and referee. But they tabled a proposal to ban players launching themselves to make a tackle, and will reconsider it in May.

The league's competition committee proposed placing the ball at the 25 after touchbacks on kickoffs and banning the wedge altogether. Several coaches expressed concern about making too many changes to kickoffs, also saying bringing touchbacks out 5 more yards would affect field position too much. Coaches worried about an increase in touchbacks from the 16 percent of kickoffs last season.

"Any time there's a touchback and now it's not coming to the 20," Saints coach Sean Payton said, "I think that that probably was the most drastic of the four or five items that constituted one rule."

Making kickoffs safer was the objective, and Payton believes the owners met it, voting 26-6 for the new rule.

"The bottom line is it's ... the highest risk of injury play," he said.

Browns standout returner Joshua Cribbs wasn't thrilled by the changes, tweeting: "Essentially taking returners out of the game...injuries will still take place, then what move it up again, or eliminate it all together."

On touchbacks, competition committee chairman Rich McKay said coaches were concerned about an increase in high kicks from the 35 intended to trap returning teams deep and severely decreasing the number of returns. He also said the two-man wedge was not a driving force in the uptick in injuries on kickoffs. Indeed, more injuries occur in coverage than on the return squads.

As for the six no votes, McKay said: "The objections were, 'Hey, you're affecting my team.' Clearly, some teams have good kick returners and they said, 'What if there's 10 percent less returns?'

"We have no answer," McKay added, "but player safety will always trump any other consideration."

Fielders take down Masters, 14-8

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Juan Maratita batted 3-for-6, but reached base five times and scored twice in the Fielders' 14-8 victory over the Masters in the SML Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palasios Ballfield.

The Fielders stamped a five-run exclamation point in the final inning before closing out the game in 1-2-3 fashion over the Masters last Tuesday as the Saipan Major League continued at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Fielders improved its win-loss card 3-2, while the Masters dropped three in a row and hold a 1-4 record.

The Fielders built an early 4-0 lead in the top of the second inning off errors and a two-RBI smash by Shane Mendiola.

They then added three more in the top of the fifth off an error and a two-RBI single by Ryan Ada.

The Masters woke up in the bottom of the sixth frame and tied the game at 7-all off an RBI base knock by Reno Celis, an RBI single by Harlan Reyes, a balk and a two-RBI triple by Justin Reyes. Justin Reyes later scored off a wild pitch, after which Fielders' Elton Santos was called to the mound in relief for Bill Wanket to close the final out of the inning.

Then the Fielders went ahead, 9-7, in the top of the seventh off an RBI triple by Eli Aughenbaugh and an RBI double by Marvin Ngeskebei.

Later in the bottom of the eighth, Masters' Justin Reyes made it all the way around to pull his team within a run heading into the final inning, but the Fielders erupted again in the top of the ninth with five runs off an RBI base hit by Ada, an error, an RBI single by Ben Flores, another error, and a wild pitch.

After Flores reached base, Masters' Greg Camacho came to the mound in relief for Ben Duenas.

The Masters were deflated after the Fielders' last surge and petered out 1-2-3 in its final stand.

Winning pitcher Wanket allowed five earned runs in five and two-thirds innings off seven hits and three walks with four strikeouts.

His relief man Santos allowed an unearned run off just one hit, a bean ball, and a pair of walks with five strikeouts. Fielders' Ada batted 3-for-5 with three RBIs and two runs, while Masters' Justin Reyes batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs in the loss.

SML action continues tonight at Tan Ko Field when the D-9ers (3-1) take on the Angels (3-1) at 6:30pm.

INTER

From Page 28

Bill's, 6-1 (March 17), drew one goal apiece from Gilmark Reusora and Masatoshi Otsuka to hand BDS its third straight loss.

Reusora found the back of the net in the 25th minute, while Otsuka gave Inter the game-winning goal in the 77th minute. Baek Du San tied the match in the second half, 1-1, off Young Sin Lee's goal in the 71st minute.

Paire 3, Wild Bill's 2

Paire broke into the win column in three tries after a 3-2 triumph over Wild Bill's in the other Division A match on Sunday.

Ropati Tonuu scored two goals for Paire in a span of six minutes, while Jason Schroeder put the team in the scoreboard with his lone goal in the game in the third minute.

Five minutes after Schroeder gave Paire the lead, Wild Bill's evened up the match and even took the lead after Adul Detdon scored his first goal in the 18th minute.

Wild Bill's could not hang on to the lead at halftime, as Tonuu scored in the 41st minute for the equalizer and then two minutes after the second half began the Paire striker added another one for the lead.

DIVISION B
MP United B 2, Tan Holdings 1

In the Division B game on Sunday, MP United topped Tan Holdings FC, 2-1.

Wesley Bogdan made both goals for MP United B, scoring his first goal right at the start of the match. Halim Adbul answered with his goal in the 17th minute to end the first 45 minutes of play in a deadlock, 1-all.

In the second half, after a long silence, Bogdan found the back of the net anew and hit his second goal at the 56th-minute mark for MP United's lead.

MP United now gains a share of the lead with Matansa FC, as the two teams hold identical 2-0-0 record.

Matansa 4, Shirley's 2

Matansa notched its second win after a 4-2 triumph over Shirley's FC on Tuesday.

Matansa drew an own goal in the ninth minute to tie the match, 1-all. Shirley's FC scored first off Ruselle Zapanta's goal in the fifth minute. Then, Matansa grabbed the lead off Hong Tao Zhao's goal in the 12th minute.

Zhao had his second goal in the 58th minute to give Matansa a 3-1 lead and Ho Jin Woo made it a 4-1 advantage after his goal in the 73rd. Two minutes later, Jerry Tan lit up the scoreboard with a penalty kick.

T&C

From Page 28

probable victory.

While T&C Clan improved to 1-5, Check It Out mirrored its tormentor at the bottom of the women's standings.

T&C Clan broke the ice with three runs in the bottom of the first inning off an error and a two-RBI double by Elma Tenorio, but Check It Out answered in the top of the second and took the lead, 4-3.

Jaime Pangelinan scored Christiana Phillip with a sacrifice fly and the other runs came home off an error and an RBI single by Scarlet Antipas' fielder's choice.

Later in the game T&C Clan reclaimed the lead, 7-4, in the bottom of the third inning, but Check It Out stepped up again and tied it back up at 7-all at the start of the fourth frame.

Both teams were stalemated until the top of the sixth inning when Check It Out took the lead, 10-7, off errors, an RBI single by Ada, and a fielder's choice.

T&C Clan managed to get a run back in the bottom frame off an error and kept Check It Out at bay in the top of the last inning.

T&C Clan then tied the game in the bottom half off an error and an RBI base rip by Kayla Sablan, and two walks later Nadine Camacho busted the walk off a single for the win.

Braddahs 14, Calikano Groupers 13

Braddahs' let the Calikano Groupers tie the game in its final stand, but held on in the bottom frame and found a way to touch the plate in the end.

Like T&C Clan, it was Braddahs' first win in six matches, while the Groupers' record fell to 3-5.

Groupers took an early 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but Braddahs pulled within a run, 3-4, in the bottom of the second off a three-run blast by Jose Iguel.

Groupers, however, answered and went ahead 8-3 in the top of the third frame. Navan Falig connected with an RBI double, Mike Pangelinan an RBI single, and D.J. Omar hammered a two-run shot.

Braddahs got two runs back in the bottom half off a couple of RBI singles by Nunu Kapileo and Ben Cabrera.

Braddahs then fended off Groupers in the top of the fourth and shot ahead, 12-8, in the bottom frame.

The score then shifted to 13-9 as both teams scored a run in the fifth inning. Groupers' Pangelinan hit a solo shot and Braddahs' Sillil scored Izeah Falig with a sacrifice fly.

Then after a scoreless sixth, Groupers tied the game at 13-all in its final stand off an error, a two-run bomb by Navan Falig, and an RBI single by Joe Sablan, but Braddahs won the game off a costly error with two outs in the bottom frame.

Natibu 27, Gorillaz 1

Unscathed Natibu blitzed Gorillaz in four innings and held its opponent scoreless until its final at bat. The loss dropped Gorillaz to a 2-4 record.

Natibu forced Gorillaz to go 1-2-3 in the top of the first inning before jumping ahead, 6-0, in the bottom frame off five hits, a couple of errors, and a fielder's choice.

Gorillaz went three up and three down again to start the second and Natibu piled on nine more runs in the bottom frame.

Gorillaz got stuffed again at the start of the third and Natibu went ahead 19-0 in the bottom frame off four hits and a fielder's choice.

Gorillaz came up empty again in the top of the fourth and Natibu poured salt in the wound with eight more runs off nine hits in the bottom of the inning.

Gorillaz avoided the shutout, but only managed one run in its final stand.

Natibu's Nokki Saralu batted 4-for-4 and scored four runs.

Play in Chamolinian softball league continues tomorrow night on Capital Hill with men's play starting at 6:30pm when Phat Boyz (6-0) clashes with Red-Eye (3-4) followed at 7:30pm with a women's duel between top-ranked Sakudi (6-0) and Enamo Meta (4-1). Then an 8:30pm men's division late game closes the night featuring Man Amigos (3-2) and Laolao Bay (1-5).

TWO-WAY

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and Ta (1-2), Emily Vargas and June Padua (0-2), and Kim and Ito (0-3).

The women's B doubles got off to a slow start, as no pair has yet to play more than two games after two weeks. In Group 1, So Young Lee and Heo In Souk and Cristy Villaflor and Zapanta have similar 1-0 slate to top the field. Lee and Souk won over Babes Cielo and Merlie Savellano, while Zapanta and Villaflor defeated Arlyn and Roma Barlao. Group 2 also has two leaders in the teams of Montano and Jaja Samonte (1-0) and Obata and Lee Chong Soo (1-0). The two squads downed June Padua and Emily Vargas.

The women's C doubles competition is in full swing with Ikka Vargas and Jen Savellano ahead in Group 1 with a perfect 4-0 slate. The leading duo won over Kim Boranah and Lupe Sabino, Pae Jee Hyun and Lee Eun Hee, Windy Fernandez and Cris Obaldo, and Cleofe Santos and her partner. Ikka Vargas and Jen Savellano have one game left in the pool and they will face Elna Curate and partner (2-1).

In Pool 2, Hwang Meong and Angela Park also own a clean 4-0 slate to take the No. 1 spot against Cecille Obaldo and Hazel Dela Zanta (4-1), and Ester Choi and Lee Chong Soo (1-2).

In the mixed C doubles, which was divided into three pools, no team has yet to play more than two games. Rick Brien and Jen Savellano leads Group 1 with a 1-0 record, the same mark that four other teams hold to stay on top of Group 2 and 3.

ALL-SCHOOLS

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trials are for junior high school and high school participants.

The qualifiers continued this week with NMA holding qualifiers for Koberville Elementary School, William S. Reyes, San Antonio, Saipan Internaional School, and Brilliant Star on Monday and Dandan Elementary School, Tanapag, Oleai,. Kagman, San Vicente, Garapan, and Gregorio T. Camacho on Tuesday. Yesterday's trials were for Saipan Community, Brilliant Star, and Whispering Palms students only as public schools had no classes yesterday.

Public schools will still have no classes today, so NMA is moving the junior high and high school trials this Saturday. NMA is also calling for the cooperation of coaches, teachers, and parents to ensure the smooth running of the qualifiers.

"Coaches and parents are asked to refrain from intervening with our officials during competition, as it disrupts their attention and focus on the task at hand. Coaches are asked to submit their roster the day before their scheduled meet and supervise their students at all times," NMA said in a press statement provided to *Saipan Tribune*.

NMA is holding the series of trials to determine the Top 8 student-athletes (in each event) eligible for the All Schools meet. Student-athletes are allowed to join in only four events.

Qualifiers will them compete in the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships scheduled for May 6 and 7. In the two-day competition, only the Top 3 finishers in each event will receive medals, while the Top 3 schools in the various age group competitions will be given trophies.

The trials will continue next week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	50	19	.725	–
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	14 1/2
New York	35	35	.500	15 1/2
New Jersey	22	47	.319	28
Toronto	20	50	.286	30 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	48	22	.686	–
x-Orlando	45	26	.634	3 1/2
Atlanta	40	31	.563	8 1/2
Charlotte	28	41	.406	19 1/2
Washington	17	52	.246	30 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	51	19	.729	–
Indiana	31	40	.437	20 1/2
Milwaukee	28	41	.406	22 1/2
Detroit	25	45	.357	26
Cleveland	13	56	.188	37 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	13	.814	–
x-Dallas	49	21	.700	8
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17 1/2
Memphis	39	32	.549	18 1/2
Houston	37	34	.521	20 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	45	24	.652	–
Denver	42	29	.592	4
Portland	41	30	.577	5
Utah	36	35	.507	10
Minnesota	17	54	.239	29

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	51	20	.718	–
Phoenix	35	34	.507	15
Golden State	30	41	.423	21
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	24
Sacramento	17	52	.246	33

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 114, Atlanta 81
Portland 111, Washington 76
L.A. Lakers 139, Phoenix 137, 3OT

2011 Tagaman Triathlon Run Split

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan's Mieko Carey crosses the finish line of the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon, emerging as the second female finisher of Saturday's race.

Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa cruises along Beach Road.

Saipan's Mamiko Oshima-Berger smiles after completing her team's first place finish in the relay event.

Two runners pass by Beach Road.

Saipan's Chang Wang Jang in his trademark barefoot running.

Austria's Carina Wasle is about to cut the tape to take third place in the women's race.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel leaves the bike-run transition area.

Adam York puts on his shoes for the run split of the race.

Saipan's Jeff Race, left, and Switzerland's Renata Bucher sprint to the finish line.

Korea's Hwa Mok Jang celebrates as he nears the finish line.

Taylor gets probation; teen says he deserved jail

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Sports

Lakers outlast Suns in triple OT, 139-137

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Inter Godfather's leads men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Inter Godfather's stretched its winning run in the 2011 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League to three after edging Baek Du San, 2-1, on Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Its unbeaten 3-0 record strengthened Inter Godfather's hold on the top spot in Division A, two wins ahead of rival MP United A (1-1-0 win-draw-loss record) and Paire Football Club (1-1-1).

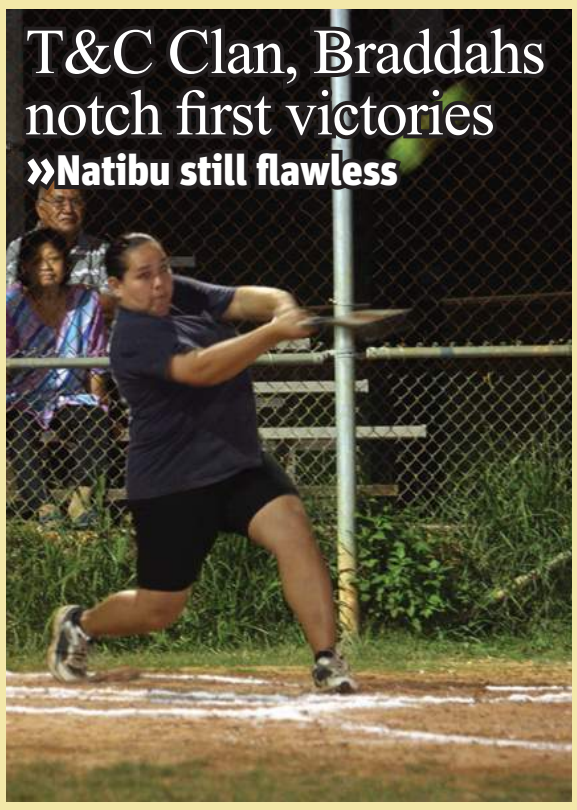
Inter Godfather, which registered its first two wins in the six-team Group A against Paire, 4-2 (March 6); and Wild

See INTER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Inter Godfather's David Duenas, left, tries to keep the ball away from Baek Du San's Young Sin Lee during their game in the 2011 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League on Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

T&C Clan, Braddahs notch first victories

»Natibu still flawless



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
T&C Clan's Nadine Camacho belts a walk-off base hit in the final inning of last Monday's 2nd Annual CSA Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball League women's division matchup against Check It Out at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Braddah's and T&C Clan finally broke into the win column of their respective men's and women's divisions, while top-ranked Natibu is still riding high in men's play, extending its undefeated streak to seven after the conclusion of last Monday's 2nd Annual Chamolinian Softball Association-Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League matchups at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

T&C Clan 11, Check It Out 10

After opening the season with five straight setbacks, T&C Clan overcame a 7-10 deficit to Check It Out by rallying in the final two innings to complete the im-

See T&C on Page 26

All Schools qualifiers draw more than 300

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The series of qualifying events for the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex got off to a good start, as the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics has already lured more than 300 student-athletes.

"The first week of the All Schools qualifiers was a success as over 300 students participated from all the various age groups. On behalf of the Northern Marianas Athletics, we would like thank all the school administrators, teachers, and parents for their cooperation and support in making this event possible. Also a special thank you goes to all the student volunteers and NMA track team for their time and service," NMA development coach Elias Rangamar said.

The first week of the trials started on March 14 with NMA holding jumping, running, and throwing qualifying events for elementary students from Monday to Wednesday. Thursday and Friday's

See ALL SCHOOLS on Page 26

Two-way tie in women's A doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two teams are in a deadlock for the lead in the women's A doubles division of the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition after the games over the weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome and Annarose Omori and Michele Caleon hold identical 3-1 records to share the top spot in the women's A doubles category. Peraja and Bartolome prevailed over the tandems of Maloue Malasarte and Annette Ta, Lucille Lampera and Marylyn Montano, and Angie Ito and Gigi Zapanta.

Peraja and Bartolome's lone loss so far was courtesy of the pair of Omori and Caleon, who also topped Malasarte and Ta and Loyda Ito and Shirley Kim. Omori and Caleon's only defeat so far in the competition was against the duo of Hannah Choi and Toshiko Obata.

Obata and Choi are in solo second place with a 2-1 record, followed by Lampera and Montano (1-1), Ito and Zapanta (1-1), Malasarte

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marlene Peraja practices her backhand return before playing in a doubles game in the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton on Sunday at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.